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Democrat Pelosi Faces Challenge as House Minority Leader

Vice President-elect Mike Pence and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif. speak to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, after meeting privately.

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IS attacks in Mosul as poor visibility slows Iraqi advance

QASSIM ZAHRA

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — Cloudy skies neutralized air power in Mosul on Thursday, Iraqi forces said, hampering their advance in the northern city, although they still faced deadly attacks by Islamic State militants that killed seven civilians and two soldiers.

The civilians were killed and 35 others were wounded when militants fired mortar rounds on government-controlled areas of eastern Mosul, said army medic Bashir Jabar, who is in charge of a field clinic run by the special forces.

A soldier was killed and three were wounded when a car packed with explosives sped out from its hiding spot in a school complex in the eastern Tahrir neighborhood, ramming Iraqi troops' position and exploding into a ball of fire, according to two officers who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Another soldier was shot and killed by a sniper in the Bakir neighborhood.

Clouds over Iraq's second-largest city obscured the visibility of drones and warplanes. The troops used the pause to secure areas they had seized, set up checkpoints and sweep for explosives, said Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil.

The U.S. coalition providing



A car bomb explodes next to Iraqi special forces armored vehicles as they advance towards Islamic State held territory in Mosul, Iraq, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016. Troops have established a foothold in the city's east from where they are driving northward into the Tahrir neighborhood. The families in Tahrir are leaving their homes to flee the fighting.

(AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

air cover and reconnaissance for the advancing forces has been a key element in the month-old Mosul offensive, and fighting stalls when the air power cannot be used.

Thursday's attacks came as civilians were fleeing or venturing into the streets to ask for food from troops and aid agencies, Jabar said. Two children were among the civilians killed, he said.

A donkey-drawn cart carried the body of an 18-year-old boy, wrapped in a white plastic bag. Mohammed Ismael said his

nephew was in the street to get kerosene when a mortar shell landed nearby, fatally wounding him.

Residents of the nearby Samah neighborhood lined up for food and other aid from an Iraqi Red Crescent truck as special forces protected them and helped organize the distribution. Families had to show their official papers to receive aid. "I'm happy today because I got what I need," said Sabah Hassan, a 36-year-old father of four. "Every day, I approach the army like a beggar to get bread and small bottles of

water," Hassan said, adding that he had run out of supplies.

"I don't know what we'll see in the coming days," he said. Since the long-awaited Mosul operation began Oct. 17, troops have only advanced into a few eastern districts. They have faced fierce resistance, with snipers, mortar fire and suicide bombers driving armor-plated vehicles packed with explosives.

After swift initial advances into the outskirts, the offensive has slowed in more densely populated areas, where Iraqi troops cannot

rely as much on airstrikes and shelling because of the risk to civilians, who have been told to stay in their homes.

Mosul is the last major hold-out for the militants in Iraq. Driving them out would deal a severe blow to the Islamic State's self-styled caliphate stretching into Syria.

On the sidelines of a climate conference in Morocco, Iraqi officials said they are confident of victory.

Iraqi President Fuad Masum told The Associated Press that IS will be "wiped out" in Mosul, but didn't say exactly when that would happen.

"Specifying a timeline is difficult because there are always surprises in wars," he said. "I think that even if it takes another month or two, in the end, ISIS will be wiped out militarily," he added, using another acronym for the Islamic State group. Later Thursday, officials said a suicide car bomber struck a wedding near the western city of Fallujah, killing at least five people and wounding dozens. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to speak to the press. No one claimed immediate responsibility for the attack, but it bore the hallmarks of IS, which is trying to destabilize the government as it defends Mosul.

Yemen's Shiite rebels say they back US-brokered cease-fire

AHMED AL-HAJ

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) —

Amid more clashes on Thursday in Yemen, the country's Shiite rebels confirmed their endorsement of a U.S.-brokered cease-fire deal previously announced by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

However, the backing of the deal by Yemeni rebels, also known as Houthis, was a moot point since Yemen's internationally-recognized government has already dismissed the plan as "unilateral," saying it was not involved in recent talks be-

tween Kerry and a Houthi delegation in Oman.

On the ground, government forces expelled rebels from several districts in the western city of Taiz while an international rights group issued a damning report on Thursday, criticizing the Houthis' detentions of political opponents.

Human Rights Watch said the Shiite rebels have carried out hundreds of unlawful detentions and torture since capturing the country's capital, Sanaa. The New York-based group said it has documented two deaths in custody and

11 cases of alleged torture and abuses.

HRW also called upon the Houthis in Sanaa to hold officials accountable and to release the detainees — without forcing them to sign false confessions of cooperating with a Saudi-led coalition that is waging a war to expel the Houthis from territory the rebels captured.

Sarah Leah Whilson, the Mideast director at Human Rights Watch, said the war between the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition "provides no justification for torture and 'disappear-

ance' of perceived opponents."

Houthis descended from their northern enclave in 2014 to take Sanaa and much of northern Yemen. The rebels forced President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to flee the country and seek shelter in Saudi Arabia, which subsequently launched the intervention by mostly Gulf Arab states that has consisted mainly of a punishing air campaign. The airstrikes, together with the ground fighting, have pushed the already impoverished nation to the brink of famine and displaced

nearly three million people. The conflict has killed over 4,000 civilians.

In his announcement, Kerry said the cease-fire was supposed to start on Thursday and lead to the formation of a unity government before the end of the year.

Mohammed Abdel-Salam, the Houthis spokesman, told Al-Masirah TV late on Wednesday that the rebels agreed to the deal.

The peace plane, however, sidelines Hadi, transfers his authorities to a newly appointed vice president, and gives the Houthis a share of power.

Trump reassuring the world he's focusing on foreign policy

KEN THOMAS
CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump sought to reassure nervous leaders around the globe with his most public foray into foreign policy since the election, welcoming Japan's prime minister to Trump Tower on Thursday. On Capitol Hill, his incoming vice president aimed to project unity at home.

Trump had a face-to-face meeting late Thursday with Shinzo Abe, his first with a world leader since last week's vote, after consulting with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and sitting down with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a potential contender to lead the State Department.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says he is convinced that U.S. President-elect Donald Trump is a leader in whom he can have great confidence.

Abe described his meeting with Trump on Thursday afternoon as "really cordial" and said he was convinced that he was able to establish a relationship of trust. "I do believe that without confidence between the two nations (the) alliance would never function in the future and as the outcome of today's discussion I am convinced Mr. Trump is a leader in whom I can have great confidence," Abe said following the meeting. In Washington, Vice President-elect Mike Pence huddled with Republican leaders in Congress. He then met with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Chuck Schumer, the newly elected leader of the Senate Democrats, seeking to convey respect as Democrats prepare for Republican rule of both chambers and the White House for the first time in a decade.

"We look forward to finding ways that we can find common ground and move the country forward," Pence said outside Schumer's Senate office. In a separate gesture of reconciliation with es-



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, right, gestures as he answers questions from the media after meeting with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, in New York. Abe made a stop in New York to meet with Trump while en route to an APEC meeting in Lima, Peru.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

tablishment Republicans, Trump planned to meet with 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, who lambasted Trump as a "con man" and a "fraud" in a stinging speech last March. Trump responded by repeatedly referring to Romney as a "loser."

The two began mending fences after Trump's victory when Romney called with congratulations. They are to meet this weekend, a transition official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss Trump's schedule publicly. Campaign manager Kellyanne Conway said they were still "working on" the meeting.

Trump's actions Thursday aimed to show leaders both in the U.S. and overseas that he could soften his rhetoric, offer pragmatism in the White House and reaffirm longstanding American alliances. Since his stunning victory over Hillary Clinton last week, Trump has spoken with Russian President Vladimir Putin, British Prime Minister Theresa May and nearly three dozen other world leaders by telephone. But Abe's visit to Trump's midtown Manhattan high-rise was his first in-person meeting with a foreign leader

since the end of the campaign.

Ron Dermer, Israel's ambassador to the United States, also visited the skyscraper and called Trump "a true friend of Israel." He specifically cited as another "friend" Trump campaign CEO Steve Bannon, whose selection as a top White House adviser has created a backlash among Democrats. Bannon's news website has peddled conspiracy theories, white nationalism and anti-Semitism.

"We look forward to working with the Trump administration, with all the members of the Trump administration, including Steve Bannon, in making the U.S.-Israel alliance stronger than ever," Dermer said. □

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Democrat Pelosi faces challenge as House minority leader

ANDREW TAYLOR
MARY JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi is facing a challenge from one of her caucus' frustrated younger members as the party faces another two years in the minority.

Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan said Thursday he will challenge the California lawmaker, who has led the party since 2002 and was the first female speaker from 2007-11, in leadership elections later this month. Democrats have been reeling since last week when the party won fewer seats than she had predicted and lost the presidency.

"What we are doing right now is not working," the 43-year-old Ryan said in a letter to colleagues. "Under our current leadership, Democrats have been reduced to our smallest congressional minority since 1929. This should indicate to all of us that keeping our leadership team completely unchanged will simply lead to more disappointment in future elections."

Ryan is from a Rust Belt state that President Barack Obama won in 2008 and



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif. speaks at her weekly news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

2012, but President-elect Donald Trump won Ohio easily this year. Along with younger members in the caucus, Democrats from several Midwestern states have expressed concern that the party has become too focused on the two coasts and forgotten the working-class voters in the middle. Pelosi is from San Francisco.

Well-known for her ability to count votes, Pelosi is still

the favorite to win another term as leader. She said in announcing her candidacy on Wednesday that she has the backing of two-thirds of the caucus, though Ryan questioned that number.

The election is Nov. 30. It had been scheduled for Thursday but was postponed until after Thanksgiving.

Pelosi, 76, is a survivor who enjoys enormous respect

and goodwill among most Democrats, even as many of her closest allies have left Congress. She has managed to maintain unity within the diverse flock of House Democrats and is an unparalleled fundraiser for them, collecting more than \$100 million in the past cycle alone. Ryan's bid marks the second time Pelosi has faced a challenge after a dismal Democratic performance in an election.

She easily beat back North Carolina Rep. Heath Shuler 150-43 after the party lost the majority in 2010.

But some Democratic lawmakers expressed their frustration in a closed-door caucus meeting earlier Thursday.

Rep. Kathleen Rice, D-N.Y., said she told her colleagues that "if we don't, as a party, have our leaders accept responsibility for where we are, we can't move forward and get to the point where our message is going to resonate with voters."

Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., said he had issued a challenge in the caucus "that anybody who is running for any position of leadership needs to come back and explain to us how we're going to be able to survive one, the Trump years, but two, to not have the same excuse we have every two years where there's some external factor that somehow causes us to not gain the seats that we need."

Among the frustrations for junior Democrats is that several top Democrats on powerful committees have been atop their posts for many years — well into their 80s in some cases — and are not some of the party's most fresh and vibrant voices. For instance, the top Democrat on the panel responsible for taxes and the Affordable Care Act is 85-year-old Michigan Rep. Sander Levin, while the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee is John Conyers, 87, who's been in Congress for more than 50 years.

"We've got a couple of big issues coming up, not the least of which is defending the very strong parts of the Affordable Care Act," said Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., a rival of Levin's on the powerful panel.

Some Democrats are pressing for term limits for committee chairmen. Pelosi didn't dismiss the idea. "If you want that, you have to fight for it," Pelosi said. Pelosi was crucial in ensuring Obama's health care overhaul became law in 2010.

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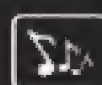
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Hundreds of O'Hare airport workers vote to strike



Travelers walk to their gates at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. Hundreds of O'Hare International Airport workers that are trying to unionize have voted to go on strike ahead of the 2016 Thanksgiving holiday. Officials with the Service Employees International Union Local 1 said Thursday Nov. 17, 2016, that about 500 workers have committed to strike.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

CHICAGO (AP)—Hundreds of O'Hare International Airport workers have voted to go on strike ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. Service Employees International Union Local 1 officials said Thursday that about 500 workers have committed to strike.

Union spokeswoman Izabela Miltkovich said the strike "will definitely take place in the coming days," though she didn't specify which day it will start. The workers involved have been trying to organize

with the union's help. They work mainly for private contractors at the airport. "They don't expect to shut the airport down," SEIU Local 1 President Tom Balanoff said, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. "That's not what they're trying to do. Oh, there will be disruption." Balanoff said a walk out could slow but not shut down airport operations. He said what workers are

trying to do "is get the powers that be to hear their voice." The workers who plan to strike include baggage handlers, cabin cleaners, janitors and wheelchair attendants. They are seeking a \$15 per hour wage. It wasn't immediately clear how such a strike would affect operations at O'Hare, which is one of the nation's busiest airports. The Chicago Department

of Aviation said in a statement that it doesn't anticipate any disruption in service. Robert Mann, an airline industry analyst and former airline executive, said much depends on what types of jobs are affected, whether airlines or the private contractors can assign other employees to fill in and on how many workers will be willing to cross a picket line. □



APNewsBreak: US is releasing Haitians coming from Mexico

ALICIA A. CALDWELL
ASTRID GALVAN
ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A surge in border crossings and a lack of immigration jail space have prompted the federal government to start releasing Haitian immigrants who have been entering the country in large numbers in recent months, backtracking on a pledge to jail the migrants. A U.S. government official told The Associated Press that the decision to free Haitians arriving in Arizona and California is in response to a lack of jail space. The official said releasing immigrants with orders to report later to immigration court is a tactic used when detention space is scarce, under

certain humanitarian conditions or as part of efforts to keep families together. Before the Haitians are released, they are subjected to a criminal background and national security check. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and insisted on speaking on condition of anonymity. The influx of migrants and lack of jail space on the border will be one of the most immediate immigration challenges for President-elect Donald Trump, whose hard-line rhetoric on the issue won over conservatives and contributed to his historic upset last week. Trump vowed to build a wall on the border and carry out mass deportations. □

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Snow off to a slow start in Rockies, delaying some skiers

DAN ELLIOTT

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Autumn snow has been scarce in the Rocky Mountains, forcing some ski areas to push back opening day and causing some nervousness about how much water will be available next spring for the Colorado River, the lifeblood of the Southwest.

expected to bring 8 inches of snow or more at higher elevations, forecasters said. Water managers and climate experts say it's too early in the season to predict a dry winter.

"This doesn't mean at all that the winter is going to be dry," said Klaus Wolter, a climate scientist with the Cooperative Institute for

inducing late onset," he said.

A lot can happen between the fall and spring, said Marlon Duke, a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages multiple reservoirs on the Colorado River.

"We're hoping to see some good precipitation through the winter months," he

Domonkos, who supervises the U.S. Department of Agriculture snow survey in the state.

At least five Colorado ski resorts have postponed their opening day. Unusually warm temperatures have limited how much artificial snow the resorts can make, compounding the lack of natural snow.

Still, two Colorado resorts have opened with limited skiing and two more are scheduled to start this weekend. Others plan to open before or during the Thanksgiving holiday, said Chris Linsmayer, a spokesman for Colorado Ski Country USA.

No matter how much or how little snow this week's storm brings, the colder weather should help with snow-making, Linsmayer said.

"We're hearing is that Thursday is going to be kind of a shift in the weather pattern to cooler weather," he said.

At least two ski resorts in New Mexico have delayed their opening. In Utah, five resorts that hope to open this weekend are waiting to see what Thursday's storm brings before deciding, said Paul Marshall, a spokesman for Ski Utah.

Water managers pay close attention to the snowfall in the Rocky Mountains because of its direct impact on the Colorado River, which supplies water to about 40 million people and 6,300 square miles of farmland. Seven states and 20 Indian reservations rely on the river.

After a yearslong Western drought, Lake Mead — a vital Colorado River reservoir in Arizona and Nevada — is barely able to supply all the users who depend on it. By 2018, some users might not get all they need, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said last summer. The agency manages multiple reservoirs on the river.

About 90 percent of the river's water comes from the region known as the Upper Colorado River Basin, a large swath of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming and smaller sections of Arizona and New Mexico.

With their normally deep winter snows, the Colorado mountains are the heart of the Upper Basin. The Colorado snowfall could catch up to normal, Domonkos said, but that's unlikely. "I wouldn't call it likely, no. But it's not out of the realm of possibility," he said.



In this Nov. 2, 2016 photo, a snow gun sits on an expanse of brown grass near the top of the Black Mountain Express run at Arapahoe Basin Ski Area near Keystone, Colo. Autumn snow has been scarce in the Rocky Mountains, forcing some ski areas to push back opening day and raising concerns about how much water will be available next spring for the Colorado River. The first big storm of the season was expected to begin blowing into Colorado and Utah on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016.

(Phil Lindeman/Summit Daily News via AP)

But the first significant storm of the season that moved into Colorado, Utah and Wyoming on Thursday is

Research in Environmental Sciences in Boulder, Colorado.

"It's kind of a nervousness-

said.

The Colorado snowpack is off to its worst start in more than 30 years, said Brian

Drought in Northeast US expected to persist through February

MICHAEL CASEY

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The long-running drought in much of the Northeastern United States is expected to persist through the winter.

The U.S. Drought Monitor map released Thursday shows dry conditions continuing through February throughout New England and the only relief coming in parts of upstate New York, where some drought-

stricken areas could see improving conditions.

The drought is the worst in more than a decade. It has been devastating to farmers and resulted in water restrictions in many places. It has dried up drinking wells and caused lake levels to drop.

Drought also is expected to persist in much of the Southeast, the Southwest as well as parts of the Midwest and California.

WINTER OUTLOOK: Drought

expert Dave Miskus said it will be difficult for the Northeast to make up the 8- to 12-inch deficit in rain throughout the winter. There have been some good storms lately, but the winter forecast remains unclear on whether there will be more or less precipitation in the next three months, said Miskus, who works for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the short-term, several

storms forecast for the end of the month could improve conditions along the coast. Farther west, recent rains and above average winter precipitation expected for the Great Lakes region and Ohio Valley should spell relief for drought-hit sections of western Pennsylvania and New York.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR: The simple answer is more rain. But Miskus and other weather experts are hoping there will be a pro-

longed stretch of precipitation rather than several big storms. That way, the water can soak into the soil and recharge aquifers rather than running off.

A second factor will be snow. While it remains unclear how much snow New England will get, New Hampshire's climatologist, Mary Lemcke-Stampone, said a snowpack of several feet in the spring would give the region a head start as it warms up.

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Man accused of killing 2 officers had called police 'heroes'



Scott Greene, accused of murdering two police officers, is brought in for a court appearance at the Polk County Jail in Des Moines, Iowa. Greene has been charged in the ambush-style attacks of Des Moines Sgt. Anthony Beminio and Urbandale officer Justin Martin.

(Bryon Houlgrave /The Des Moines Register via AP)

RYAN J. FOLEY
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Days before he allegedly killed two Iowa police officers, Scott Michael Greene sent a note to one of their departments apologizing for prior run-ins, saying his "dark days" were over and

praising police as "absolute heroes." In an online compliment form addressed to the "many officers" of the Urbandale Police Department, the unemployed 46-year-old father wrote Oct. 29: "I love you folks." "I love the fact that you will

give your life for my daughter and myself. You guys are absolute heroes and I mean that from the bottom of my heart," Greene wrote in the note from his Gmail account. "I'm so proud to have you guys around. I respect each and every one of you with all my heart. I really do."

Four days after the laudatory email, authorities say Greene shot and killed first-year Urbandale police officer Justin Martin, 24, and Des Moines Police Sgt. Anthony Beminio, 38. The ambush-style attacks took place about two miles apart within minutes of each other as both officers were sitting in their patrol cars. Greene is in jail awaiting trial on two counts of first-degree murder, which would put him in prison for life if convicted. The Associated Press exclusively obtained the document and dozens of others about Greene on Thursday from the Urbandale Community School District under the open records law. The district had initially refused to release them at the urging of Urbandale police, arguing they were part of a police report and confidential. The district reversed course after the AP argued that exemption did not apply to school records. The records reveal that for two weeks before the shootings, Greene was enraged by the district's deci-

sion to bar him for security reasons from district activities. The district acted after Greene had waved a large Confederate flag in front of black spectators at a high school football game Oct. 14. He told the district he targeted those spectators with the flag because he was upset they did not stand for the national anthem. Greene warned school officials in a rambling email Oct. 26 that he wasn't violent but that "you messed with the wrong guy." He said the ban was a violation of his civil rights and promised legal action to restore the right to watch his daughter perform on the high school cheerleading team and in other extracurricular activities. "I will fight you guys like a pit bull who's been fed gunpowder," he wrote to the principal and superintendent. After the flag incident, police escorted Greene out of the game and temporarily banned him from school property. He later posted video of the incident on YouTube. □

Sheriff: Missing Washington state family found alive on remote road

GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Hunters found a Washington state couple and two of their children walking along a remote logging road southwest of Seattle on Thursday, two days after they failed to pick up their older kids after school and were reported missing, authorities said. Jason and Melissa McAlister had gone for a drive Tuesday with their 8-month-old and 2-year-old, and got stuck when the road gave way as they tried to maneuver their van around a downed tree north in the rugged country in Mason County. "Everybody's good. God's great. Happy to be alive," Jason McAlister, 33, told television news crews. "This one was a trouper," he said, referring to his 2-year-old daughter. "She was rooting around in the

van, finding all kinds of Halloween candy." The family started walking back toward the main road at about 1 p.m. Tuesday, but stopped as darkness fell, he said. He made a shelter along the side of the road by leaning fir boughs against a rock face that protected them from the wind as temperatures dropped into the 30s. "It actually kept us warm, considering I didn't have a fire going," he said. McAlister said he doesn't smoke, but he usually keeps lighters in his car. Friends who do smoke had borrowed them, he said. Early on Wednesday, the family began trekking back to the van, reaching it at 8 a.m. They turned on the heater, tried to dry out their clothes, put on some DVDs and listened to the radio — and learned authorities were looking for them. □

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Airstrikes in Syria's besieged Aleppo kill more than 20



Residents sit amongst rubble in rebel-held eastern Aleppo, Syria. Airstrikes pounded rebel-held eastern Aleppo on Thursday, November 17, 2016, killing more than 20 people on the third day of a renewed air campaign on the besieged territory, Syrian activists said.

(Syrian Civil Defense- White Helmets via AP. File)

**SARAH EL DEEB
PHILIP ISSA**

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Airstrikes pounded rebel-held eastern Aleppo on Thursday, killing more than 20 people and hitting a water pumping station on the third day of a renewed air campaign on the besieged territory, Syrian activists and rescue workers said.

The Russian military meanwhile said airstrikes in the rebel-held province of Idlib earlier this week killed

at least 30 members of an al-Qaida-linked group, including three commanders. The strikes are part of a major Syrian and Russian offensive launched earlier this week on opposition-held areas that has killed dozens of people.

In one area, volunteer first responders dug through the rubble for four hours before pulling out a six-year-old child who was still alive. The child's mother was killed in the strikes, said Ibrahim al-Haj, a spokesman for the

rescuers, known as the Syrian Civil Defense.

The activist-run Public Services Authority said the Bab al-Nairab water plant was struck with a barrel bomb. Spokesman Ahmad al-Shami said the plant was damaged but is still operating.

"This regime uses any means to add pressure to civilians. It has bombed bakeries and hospitals and has not made an exception for water and electricity," he told The Associated Press.

Airstrikes on Wednesday struck the city's central blood bank and a children's hospital. Medical facilities have repeatedly come under attack during the Syrian conflict, with 126 such incidents this year alone, according to the World Health Organization. Doctors Without Borders said the children's hospital and a specialized surgical hospital were hit by Wednesday's strikes.

"Hospital staff managed to move children including prematurely born babies from cots and incubators to the basement of the building in order to shelter them from the bombing," said the aid group, which sponsors both hospitals.

The Oxfam aid group said the more than 250,000 residents of eastern Aleppo have limited food and clean water as winter approaches, and are at risk of disease outbreaks.

No U.N. aid has reached eastern Aleppo since July, and the U.N. has warned that supplies will run out this week. Oxfam said it helped move a generator to the besieged area on Wednesday to improve the water supply.

"Clean water is vital, but it won't stop starvation, never mind protect people

from indiscriminate aerial attacks," said Andy Baker, who is leading Oxfam's Syria response.

The Syrian Civil Defense said 28 people were killed in and around Aleppo on Thursday. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of local activists, put the death toll at 25.

At least 70 people were killed in northern Syria on Tuesday and Wednesday. Russia says it is not bombing Aleppo as part of the offensive announced this week, but is instead targeting insurgents in Idlib and the central Homs province. Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said the strikes targeting al-Qaida took place in Idlib on Tuesday, and were launched from Russia's only aircraft carrier, the Admiral Kuznetsov, which recently deployed to the Mediterranean Sea.

He said three leading members of the al-Qaida-linked Fatah al-Sham Front — Muhammad Helala, Abu Jaber Harmuja and Abul Baha al-Asfari — were among those killed. He said al-Asfari had overseen the group's attempts to break the siege of Aleppo.

Al-Asfari had led a moderate rebel group in 2013, and it was not clear if or when he joined the al-Qaida-linked group. An opposition media group known as All4Syria reported that the two other named militants were killed Tuesday in an airstrike in the village of Kfar Jalis, in the Idlib countryside, that also killed six civilians. The Observatory's chief Rami Abdulrahman said the airstrike on the jihadist stronghold killed six leading militants, without identifying them.

Kosovo police: terror attack on Israeli team prevented

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — Kosovo police said Thursday they prevented simultaneous attacks by the Islamic State group, including on the Israeli national soccer team that played a World Cup qualifier in neighboring Albania.

A police statement said plans were in place to attack Saturday's match in Albania, and at the same

time attack another target in Kosovo.

Nineteen people were detained in Kosovo on Nov. 4, of whom one has since been released, police there said.

Albania and Macedonia announced six more people detained.

The Kosovo police said that at the suspects' homes and premises officers found explosive devices, weapons

and electronic equipment, including "religious material and literature from well-known authors recognized for their extremist ideology."

"The groups in the three countries, coordinated by two Albanians who are part of the IS terror group in Syria, had 'clear targets on who and when should be attacked,'" police said. The venue of the qualifier was changed for "security

reasons" from the northern city of Shkoder, near the border with Montenegro, to Elbasan, much nearer to the capital Tirana.

Israel won the match 3-0. Both Kosovo and Albanian authorities claim that no more of their citizens have joined the rebel groups in Syria and Iraq over the past year, but scores of them remain active with IS fighting groups.

Trump election puts pressure on Merkel to take liberal lead

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Can Germany, the country that once unleashed Nazism, lead the free world?

The idea that the former home of militarism and nationalism could become a beacon for human rights and peaceful international cooperation within one lifetime may seem far-fetched.

But with outsider Donald Trump's election as U.S. president and the rising strength of far-right and populist movements in Europe, some have suggested that German Chancellor Angela Merkel is left as the last powerful defender of liberal values in the West. Since taking office in 2005, Merkel has been a fixture of the international summit circuit, often providing the only dash of color in row upon row of grey suits.

She has outlasted most of her contemporaries — save for Russian President Vladimir Putin — and won plaudits for successfully steering her country through the turmoil of the global financial crisis.

Along the way, the trained physicist has deftly maintained relations with allies as they gained new lead-



German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends a news conference with U.S. President Barack Obama after a meeting at the chancellery in Berlin, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016.

(AP Photo/Markus Schreiber).

ers, including prime ministers and presidents whose positions were very different from her own.

"I could not have asked for a steadier and more reliable partner on the world stage," President Barack Obama said Thursday after meeting with Merkel in Berlin during his final foreign tour. He described the German chancellor as "a great friend and ally" who looks out for her own country's interests while recognizing that this also requires

working closely with others to solve common problems.

Merkel raised eyebrows last week when she departed from the usual diplomatic script after Trump's election by suggesting that respect for liberal values was a precondition for Berlin's continued good relations with Washington. Many com-

mentators saw her remarks as a sign that the chancellor was prepared to thrust Germany into the forefront of international politics and challenge the new U.S. administration if necessary.

Standing beside Obama, she pledged to "do everything to work well with the new president," but insisted that the basis for coopera-

tion would have to be "democracy, freedom and human rights worldwide, and to strive for an open and liberal world order."

Obama's decision to stop in Germany for two days reinforced the image of him passing the baton to Merkel. Rather than bid farewell to Europe in Paris, the capital of America's oldest ally, or in Britain — which prides itself on a having a "special relationship" with Washington — Obama's choice signaled a recognition that the heart of the old continent now lies in Berlin.

The leaders of Europe's other major powers — Britain, France, Italy and Spain — will meet Obama in the German capital Friday, a day after he confers at length with Merkel. "The phrase 'leader of the free world' is usually applied to the president of the United States, and rarely without irony," Timothy Garton Ash, a historian and professor of European studies at Oxford University, wrote Friday in Britain's left-leaning Guardian newspaper.

Dutch official urges a fine for anti-Islam lawmaker Wilders

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Prosecutors asked a Dutch court Thursday to convict populist anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders and fine him 5,000 euros (\$5,360), saying he deliberately insulted and incited hate against Moroccans. In a video reaction posted online in Dutch and English, Wilders called the sentence demand "utter madness. Only meant to shut you and me up."

The politically charged trial centers on comments that Wilders made before and after the Dutch municipal elections in 2014. At one meeting in a Hague cafe, he asked supporters whether they wanted more or fewer Moroccans in the

Netherlands. That sparked a chant of "Fewer! Fewer! Fewer!" — to which he replied "we'll take care of it." Prosecutor Wouter Bos said the court should "send a clear signal that statements like these do not belong in the Netherlands."

Bos told the three-judge panel that Wilders' comments portrayed Moroccans as "of less value and put them outside society. In fact, Wilders is saying that Moroccans don't deserve to stay here." The prosecutor cited one of the many Moroccans who filed criminal complaints against Wilders. "You only want less of something that is bad and not good," Bos said, citing the complaint. "Wilders gives me the feeling that I am worthless."

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Philippines' Duterte mulls leaving international court

TERESA CEROJANO
Associated Press
MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Thursday he might follow Russia's example and withdraw from the International Criminal Court, where his critics say he could be charged over the thousands killed in his war on drugs.

In a statement before flying to Peru to attend the annual summit of Asia-Pacific leaders, Duterte also said the United Nations has been unsuccessful in stopping wars. He said if China and Russia decide to cre-

ate a new world order, he would be the first to join them and leave the U.N., which he said is dominated by the U.S.

"You know, if China and Russia would decide to create a new order, I would be the first to join," he said, adding that he would quit the U.N. U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said the U.N. is aware of reports that Duterte is considering withdrawing his country from the ICC but that the world body has not yet received any formal communication from the Philippines. He urged them and other na-

tions to reconsider.

Duterte also criticized the global agreement to fight climate change, saying there are no penalties for violators and it is not clear which industrialized countries will contribute money to support developing countries' efforts against global warming. He said that was the reason why President-elect Donald Trump does not want the U.S. to spend on fighting climate change.

During his campaign, Trump said he would pull the U.S. out of the Paris pact on climate change.

The foul-mouthed Duterte said that like Russia, he might withdraw from the ICC "because we the small ones are the only ones being beaten up," but nothing has been done for the thousands of children and women dying in bombings in Syria and Iraq. Duterte is expected to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the sidelines of the summit in Lima. He requested for the bilateral meeting because he wants to meet and be friends with Putin, whom he said was his idol.

Human rights advocates have criticized Duterte's

anti-drug campaign that has left more than 4,000 suspected addicts and pushers dead since July. They said the killings can be a basis to charge him for crimes against humanity before the Netherlands-based court. Duterte said he has intentionally used foul language — including calling Obama a "son of a bitch" — because Obama has trivialized the Philippines' drug problem when there are already around 4 million Filipinos addicted to drugs. The country has a population of more than 103 million.

South Korean lawmakers pass law on independent probe of Park

KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's parliament on Thursday passed a law that would allow a special prosecutor to investigate a corruption scandal threatening the presidency of Park Geun-hye.

The opposition-controlled National Assembly also voted for a parliamentary investigation into allegations that Park allowed a secretive confidante to manipulate power from the shadows and amass an illicit fortune.

The bill on an independent investigation was passed by a vote of 196 to 10 with 14 abstentions in the 300-seat assembly.

It came as state prosecutors prepared to indict Park's friend by Sunday. Prosecutors had sought to question Park this week, but her lawyer on Thursday asked for more time.

"I will do my best to prepare my arguments as



Protesters supporting South Korean President Park Geun-hye wave national flags during a rally opposing her resignation in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016. South Korean prosecutors want to question Park this week over suspicion that she let a shadowy longtime confidante manipulate power from behind the scenes, an official said Sunday.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

quickly as I can and cooperate so that the investigation of the president can happen next week," Yoo Yeong-ha, Park's lawyer,

said in a statement. An independent investigation would increase the pressure on Park, who has been facing growing calls

by opposition lawmakers to resign.

Although emboldened by a wave of massive protests, opposition parties have yet

to seriously push for Park's impeachment over fears of triggering a backlash from conservative voters and negatively impacting next year's presidential election.

Park has 15 days to sign off on the law or use her constitutional right to reject it, although that's considered unlikely.

Park has apologized for letting her friend Choi Soon-sil, the daughter of a late cult leader who emerged as Park's mentor in the 1970s, edit some of her draft speeches and for the public anger caused by the scandal.

But she has not commented on the most damning accusations that she let Choi manipulate important government decisions on policy and personnel.

Under South Korea's Constitution, the president has immunity from prosecution except in cases of treason, but she can be investigated.

Dalai Lama to visit Mongolia, possibly sparking China anger

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia (AP) — The Dalai Lama will visit Mongolia this week, Buddhist leaders said Thursday, potentially sparking an angry response from China.

Davaapurev, a monk at the Gandan monastery in the Mongolian capital, Ulaanbaatar, said the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader's four-day visit starting

Friday is for purely religious purposes. He is to receive an honorary degree, take part in religious observances and hold meetings with academics and representatives of the nation's youth, said Davaapurev, who is organizing the visit. No word was given on any meetings with political figures.

The visit is "separate from

politics and for religious purposes only," Davaapurev said.

China, landlocked Mongolia's giant southern neighbor, accuses the head of Tibetan Buddhism of seeking independence for Tibet and routinely objects to his overseas travels. Beijing has in past used the Mongolian economy's heavy dependence on trade with China

as leverage, cutting off rail links and disrupting air travel during a visit by the Dalai Lama in 2006.

Mongolian Buddhism is closely tied to Tibet's strain and traditionally reveres the Dalai Lama as a leading spiritual figure.

However, the abbot of the rival Ikh Khuree monastery, Sanjdorj Zandan, criticized the visit as interference

in Mongolia's internal affairs and said it appeared the Dalai Lama planned to name the new head of Mongolian Buddhism. Davaapurev denied any such appointment would be made. Tibetan Buddhist leaders are recognized as the reincarnations of their predecessors and their appointments can be major sources of controversy.



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Israeli proposal to quiet call to prayer draws Muslims' ire

DANIEL ESTRIN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A proposal to make mosques reduce the loudspeaker volume of their call to prayer has sparked an uproar among Israel's Muslims, underscoring their fraught relationship with the country's Jewish majority. Supporters of the bill, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have painted it as a matter of quality of life. But it has deepened a sense among the Arab minority that it is being increasingly marginalized by his hard-line government.

"The call to prayer came before the racists. The call to prayer will remain after the racists," said Ayman Odeh, head of a joint list of Arab parties in parliament. The bill, which received initial support from a committee of Israeli ministers this week, proposes to limit the volume of public address systems of all houses of prayer in Israel.

But the bill's sponsor, a lawmaker from a nationalist Jewish religious party, made clear the target is mosque loudspeakers, and it has been dubbed the "muezzin bill," referring to the man who delivers the call to prayer. Devout Muslims pray five times a day, beginning around 5 a.m. In Israel, the call to prayer is often loud enough to wake up residents in Jewish neighborhoods or towns who live in close proximity to Muslim communities.

"I cannot count the times, they are simply too numerous, that citizens have turned to me from all parts of Israeli society, from all religions, with complaints about the noise," Netanyahu told his Cabinet this week.

"Israel is a country that re-



The minaret of a mosque is seen in Lod, a mixed Jewish Muslim and Christian city in central Israel, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is championing a bill that would force mosques in Israel to reduce the volume of the Muslim call to prayer intoned through loudspeakers five times a day. The bill is unlikely to advance in its current form, but it echoes similar concerns from the rising right-wing in Europe — and touches upon the deep fissure the country has with its Arab citizens.

(AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

spects freedom of religion for all faiths. Israel is also committed to defending those who suffer from the loudness of the excessive noise of the announcements," he added.

But Palestinians and Arab citizens of Israel see the initiative as yet another affront by an increasingly hostile Israeli society and leadership.

Arabs make up one fifth of Israel's citizenry, but they are generally poorer and less educated than Jews and suffer from discrimination and substandard public services. Some politicians have questioned their loyalty to the state.

On election day last year, Netanyahu galvanized his hawkish supporters by warning that "Arab voters are going in droves to the polls." The comments drew accusations of racism, and Netanyahu later apologized.

Some detractors have said the bill is unnecessary, since Israel already has rules regulating excessive noise. Still, it has garnered support from many secular liberals who normally are at odds with Netanyahu's conservative government.

Zvi Barel of the liberal Haaretz newspaper said he would support efforts to limit the place of religion in the Israeli public sphere if the bill wasn't discriminatory.

"Israeli liberals, whether Jewish or Arab, can't support this excellent bill, because it is intended to harm Muslims," he wrote in an op-ed.

A planned vote on Wednesday was blocked after ultra-Orthodox Jewish lawmakers raised concerns that it could also affect the sirens that announce the start of the Jewish Sabbath and holidays in many communities.

"I think the whole law is unnecessary," Health Minister Yaakov Litzman told Israeli Army Radio Wednesday, adding that he would support an amended bill that made an exception for Jewish sirens. A ministerial committee will revisit the bill.

Netanyahu has claimed that many European cities and Muslim countries place limits on loudspeaker volume.

In Ireland, Muslims seeking to build mosques must agree that there will be no public call to prayer. Local Muslim leaders have accepted the restriction, citing religious teachings on showing respect for neighbors, and more than a dozen mosques have been built since 1996.

In Germany, only about 30 of the 160 official mosques have a call to prayer, according to the DPA news agency. While residents

often complain, authorities say it is covered by the right to religious freedom, though still subject to general laws against making excessive noise.

The nationalist Alternative for Germany and various far-right parties have tried to exploit the issue, so far to little avail. Yet the party has done very well in local elections by campaigning against Islam and is surging as the country heads into a major election year in 2017.

In Britain, local city and town councils mediate occasional disputes over early morning prayer calls. There is an online petition in support of allowing areas with high Muslim populations to have "a loud call for prayer" at least three times a day, but it has not yet generated the 100,000 electronic signatures required to put it before Parliament.

While France has no ban, French mosques don't sound public calls to prayer, apparently out of respect to the country's secular traditions.

Likewise, very few mosques in the U.S. blast a call to prayer. Ibrahim Hooper of the Council on American-Islamic Relations said most American mosques are not located in the heart of Muslim communities. "Even if they broadcast it, the likelihood is that people are not close enough to hear it," he said. Dawud Walid, director of CAIR's Michigan chapter, said the call to prayer rings out from some mosques in Detroit and the suburbs of Hamtramck and Dearborn, all with large Muslim populations. In a 1979 decision, a Detroit judge ruled a mosque had a constitutional right to broadcast its prayer call.



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Puerto Rico unveils \$200M center to treat, research cancer

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico is opening a long-awaited \$200 million cancer treatment and research center that aims to serve patients across the Western Hemisphere with more affordable treatment than on the U.S. mainland, officials said Thursday. The center is expected to improve treatment of a disease that is the number one cause of death in Puerto Rico, which has disproportionately high numbers of uterine, colorectal and other types of cancer. Officials with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center provided guidance to the U.S. territory's government as it built the Hospital of the Comprehensive Cancer Center of the University of Puerto Rico. The hospital will serve patients from the Caribbean region and Latin America while the center aims to attract scientists from around the world to conduct clinical trials and re-



Dr. Reynold Lopez, center, a surgical oncologist and instructor at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, is followed by medical students at the Dr. Isaac Gonzalez Martinez Oncological Hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where services are offered to cancer patients with limited financial resources. Puerto Rico is opening a long-awaited \$200 million cancer treatment and research center that aims to serve patients across the Western Hemisphere with more affordable treatment than on the U.S. mainland, officials said Thursday.

(AP Photo/Carlos Giusti)

search cancers that affect Latinos at a higher rate, said Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla.

"The center represents a before and after in the fight against cancer for all of Latin America," he said. The nearly 300,000-square-foot

(28,000-square-meter) 10-floor center is scheduled to open in mid-December, more than a decade after it was established as a public corporation. It will feature 96 beds, 26 chemotherapy spaces, eight operation rooms

and the island's first 24-hour oncological emergency room, among other things. It will also have an imaging center and will allow health officials to collect more detailed statistics on cancer. Garcia said the center will serve as a one-stop

shop for all the medical services that cancer patients might need. The center expects to generate up to \$80 million a year and could become self-sufficient in three years, said Dr. Luis Clavell, the center's executive director, adding that it will feature technologies including pressurized rooms to prevent the spread of germs.

"This is an opportunity for Puerto Rico to be at the forefront," he said. So far, 50 doctors have committed to working at the center, and Clavell said that number is expected to double despite a worsening exodus of doctors to the U.S. mainland. The number of doctors in Puerto Rico has dropped from 14,000 to 9,000 in the past decade, the majority leaving for higher salaries and lower living costs. Overall, the U.S. territory has boosted its manufacturing and biotechnology sectors in recent years despite struggling to emerge from a decade-long economic and fiscal crisis. □

Ex-Rio governor snared in sweeping Brazilian graft probe

PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A former governor of Rio de Janeiro state who had long been dogged by corruption allegations was arrested at his home Thursday, accused of receiving bribes and laundering money in a colossal graft probe roiling Brazil.

Federal police arrested Sergio Cabral in a morning raid that also snared several others connected to former governor's 2007-2014

administration.

Prosecutors said Cabral received hundreds of thousands of dollars a month from several companies in exchange for help getting building contracts that ranged from projects in slums to the refurbishment of Rio's iconic Maracana Stadium.

In total, Cabral received tens of millions of dollars in a scheme that included laundering money via the writing of fake contracts and buying luxury goods,

according to investigators. "This case shows the overwhelming effects of corruption," said Athayde Ribeiro Costa, a lead prosecutor in the case, during a press conference. "Society suffers greatly from it." Calls to Cabral's lawyer were not immediately returned.

Cabral is the latest top politician to be arrested in a massive kickback scheme connected to the state oil company Petrobras.

Prosecutors allege that

more than \$2 billion in bribes were paid in exchange for building contracts and favorable terms over a decade.

Dozens of politicians and top businessmen have been charged in the scheme. Several have been jailed.

Long before the so-called "Car Wash" investigation was launched a few years ago, Cabral was repeatedly accused of wrongdoing. In 2014, he resigned after large street protests in

a movement that cariocas, as Rio residents are known, called "Occupy Cabral." Detractors accused him of overseeing shady construction deals in Rio, of using state helicopters for personal trips and of allowing military police to use brutal tactics. Then-vice Gov. Luiz Fernando Pezao took over, and later was re-elected. Today Pezao and the state are facing a major fiscal crisis that has kept thousands of public employees from being paid. □



An Aruban in Libya

Stories of my years (1966 – 1973) with ESSO in Tripoli

Chapter 13 - Beautiful beaches and Roman Ruins

Libya's Mediterranean coast is huge. It runs from Egypt to Tunisia, approximately the distance between Aruba and Miami and along this coast there are hundreds of beaches, some quite extensive while others are just small coves. Although they are all beautiful with clean white sand like in Aruba, not one of the beaches had been developed into a tourist destination while I was in Libya. Even so they were peaceful places where one could spend a relaxed day with friends and family. Three beaches were very popular with the expats

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Parking Area sign at KM 13 Beach.

living in Tripoli: The beach at Zanzur, the one next to Sabratha and the one near Khoms and the ruins of Leptis Magna. The beach near Zanzur, known as "Kilometer 13" because of the parking sign that showed the distance to Tripoli, was very popular

seemed the baker was always expecting us, because whenever we were there, he had bread that had just left the wood burning oven. We would immediately stuff the rolls with sandwich fillings and devoured them right there and then. I was also fas-

the sea before the water reached my chest. Some large rocks protruding at one side of the beach kept the waves away. The beach at the former Westin Hotel reminds me very much of the beach at Zanzur.

We often used to visit "Kilometer 13" in groups of various families, taking with us large beach umbrellas, beach chairs, fold-up tables, coolers filled with refreshments and food. Before Ghadafi we used to include a few cans of beer, but after September 1, 1969 we were very careful not to have problems with the mutawi.

We often would meet many young boys swimming at the beach. (Girls were not allowed to swim where strangers would see them). The boys used to lie next to each other on the white sand and stare at us as soon as we started to carry our stuff from the cars. It wasn't something that scared us, but it bothered us, especially the girls in our group.

Continued on page 14



The little mosque of Zanzur.



At KM 13 Beach.



Relaxing at KM 13 Beach with family and friends.

because of its proximity. In Tripoli there was also a small beach, but it did not have the clean white sand that the others had and it was always very crowded with Libyans families. The other beaches we liked to visit were further away. The beach at Sabratha, 70 km west of Tripoli and the one at Khoms, 120 km in the eastern direction, had the additional attraction of being close to Roman ruins where one could spend hours exploring the different parts of what were important commercial centers 2 millenia ago. Before entering the water at "Kilometer 13" we always stopped in the town of Zanzur to visit a small bakery that used to sell small crusty Italian rolls. It

cinated by the charming little mosque in the center of the town and the friendliness of the Zanzurians. Like our beaches of Aruba, the beach at "Kilometer 13" consisted of clean white sand and the water was relatively shallow and calm. I could walk almost a hundred meters into



The boys line up for their turn to be shot into the air.



KONINGIN WILHELMINA FONDS

This is the 13th of 22 chapters in English of my book originally published in Papiamentu. After the last chapter has been published, they will be compiled into a book to be published and sold for the benefit of the Queen Wilhelmina Cancer Foundation of Aruba. All profits, 100%, will go to that foundation. If you want to reserve a copy, you can do so by contacting the author at the email address below. Because of space constraints, the material that is published weekly (text and pictures) might not be as extensive as what eventually will appear in the book. Alumni of the Oil Companies School of Tripoli and members of the former Libya expatriate

community have expressed an interest in the English version. Convinced that the Aruba Today readers also would be interested in the stories of an Aruban on the shores of Tripoli and eager to support the Queen Wilhelmina Cancer Foundation, the editorial management of this newspaper has agreed to make space available to have one chapter published every week. If you would like to have future (and past) chapters sent to you in your electronic mailbox when you are back home, just send me your email address. I'll be happy to add you to my subscribers. I would also welcome your comments. clydeharms@yahoo.com.□

An Aruban in Libya

Continued from page 13

One day we decided to turn things around. We all lay down, parents and children, next to each other and without uttering one word, stared back at the boys.

It did not take them long to realise what was happening and they got up and we never again experienced any staring on the beach.

I used to let my children and their friends stand on my shoulder so that they



The famous amphitheater of Leptis Magna dates back to the third century.

could dive head first into the water. Some would fall

wait their turn.

At that point I felt I could not disappoint them. That afternoon I became a hero of the Zanzur boys, but in the evening my wife had to massage my shoulders, arms and legs and I had to sleep with heating pads that I kept moving from one extremity to another.

-LEPTIS MAGNA: The beach at Khoms is just three kilometers from the famous Leptis Magna ruins. Leptis Magna became part

are spectacular. I have entered the Roman amphitheater in Pula, Croatia; the coliseum of Jem, Tunisia and of course the one of Rome.

All three are enormous and impressive but Leptis Magna is a whole city with different sectors. The most important part of Leptis Magna is undoubtedly the theatre that had a capacity of 16 thousand people.

-SABRATHA: What is now known as Talili Seyahi Beach, was known to us as the Sabratha Beach, on the Coastal Road to Tunis, some 77 km west of Tripoli near the Roman ruins of Sabratha.

The history of Sabratha follows a pattern similar to that of Leptis Magna, but it was founded much later, around 5 centuries BC. In the fourth century, Sabratha was almost completely destroyed by an earthquake.

Byzantines reconstructed the city, but on a much smaller scale.

The mortal blows to Sabratha were delivered by the Arabs when they conquered North Africa in the 7th century.

As in Leptis Magna, the principal attraction is the theatre, but it only seated 5 thousand people.

Recognizing the Roman ruins as important tourist attractions, Ghadafi's government invested much in the restoration of both Leptis Magna and Sabratha, but following the policy of not allowing any non Arab signs in public, incredulously had all the historic Roman signs covered with concrete. □

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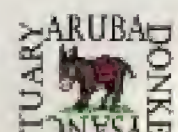
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Girls Scouts of the Oil Companies School having a field day at Sabratha.

leg first, but they had fun. Sometimes I would grab them just above their ankles and throw them into the air to give them a longer ride before they hit the water.

The Libyan boys became very fascinated and one day one of them audaciously asked me if he could also get a turn. I was caught completely off guard and not realizing what would follow, I beckoned him.

As if an alert siren had just gone off, all the other local boys filed behind him to

of the Roman Republic some two centuries before Christ. In the year 193, Septimus Severus, a native son became emperor and he invested very much in Leptis Magna and his city grew to be as important as Carthage in Tunisia and Alexandria in Egypt.

During the fifth century Leptis Magna became the victim of many attacks by the Berbers and today only the ruins remain of the glorious city the Phoenicians created some eleven centuries before Christ.

The ruins of Leptis Magna

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Frank and Pauline Haydar Honored at the Paradise Beach Villas

EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Paradise Beach Villas as Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Frank and Mrs. Pauline Haydar from Ontario, Canada, celebrating their 30th consecutive visit to Aruba! Frank and Pauline and their family love Aruba very much because of the extremely friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the safety, the great restaurants and the family time! They say they especially love the relaxing atmosphere on Aruba and at the Paradise Beach Villas, and the associates at the Paradise Beach Villas make them feel very much



at home with each visit. The certificate was presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with family and friends and associates from the Paradise Beach Villas. □

William and Linda Lillibridge honored at the Tropicana Resort & Casino

EAGLE BEACH -

Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Distinguished Visitors at the Tropicana Resort and Casino.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. William and Mrs. Linda Lillibridge from Hopkinton, Rhode Island.

This lovely couple loves Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, the beaches, the restaurants, and of course the Tropicana Casino! They say being on Aruba and



staying at the Tropicana is like being home for them, and the wonderful staff of the resort is like family to them. The certificates were presented at the Tropicana Casino by Mr. Ernest Giel

representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jacky Filiciana, Ms. Nelida Rodriguez and General Manager Mr. Richard Roy at the Tropicana Resort & Casino.



Aruba Tourism Authority Honors Loyal Island Guests Si and Peggy

DRUIF BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitor of Aruba at the Divi Tamarijn Beach Resort as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Si and Mrs. Peggy Basham. Si and Peggy are regular guests of the Divi Tamarijn and they love Aruba

very much because of the friendly people, the climate, the beaches and the restaurants. They say Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them, and the Divi Tamarijn is truly their vacation 'home-away-from-home.' The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with family and friends Leo and Ella Tromp, Family Tito Tromp, Walter and Olga Wong and Francis of the Divi Tamarijn Beach Resort.



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In this Monday, Sept. 14, 2015 file photo, New York Yankees catcher Brian McCann loses the baseball after forcing Tampa Bay Rays' Asdrubal Cabrera at home plate on a fielder's choice by Kevin Kiermaier during the second inning of a baseball game in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

Yankees trade McCann, \$11M to Astros for 2 young pitchers

BY BEN WALKER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) -- Brian McCann still wanted to catch, a lot. So with his options limited in the New York Yankees' lineup, the seven-time All-Star gladly accepted a new opportunity in Houston.

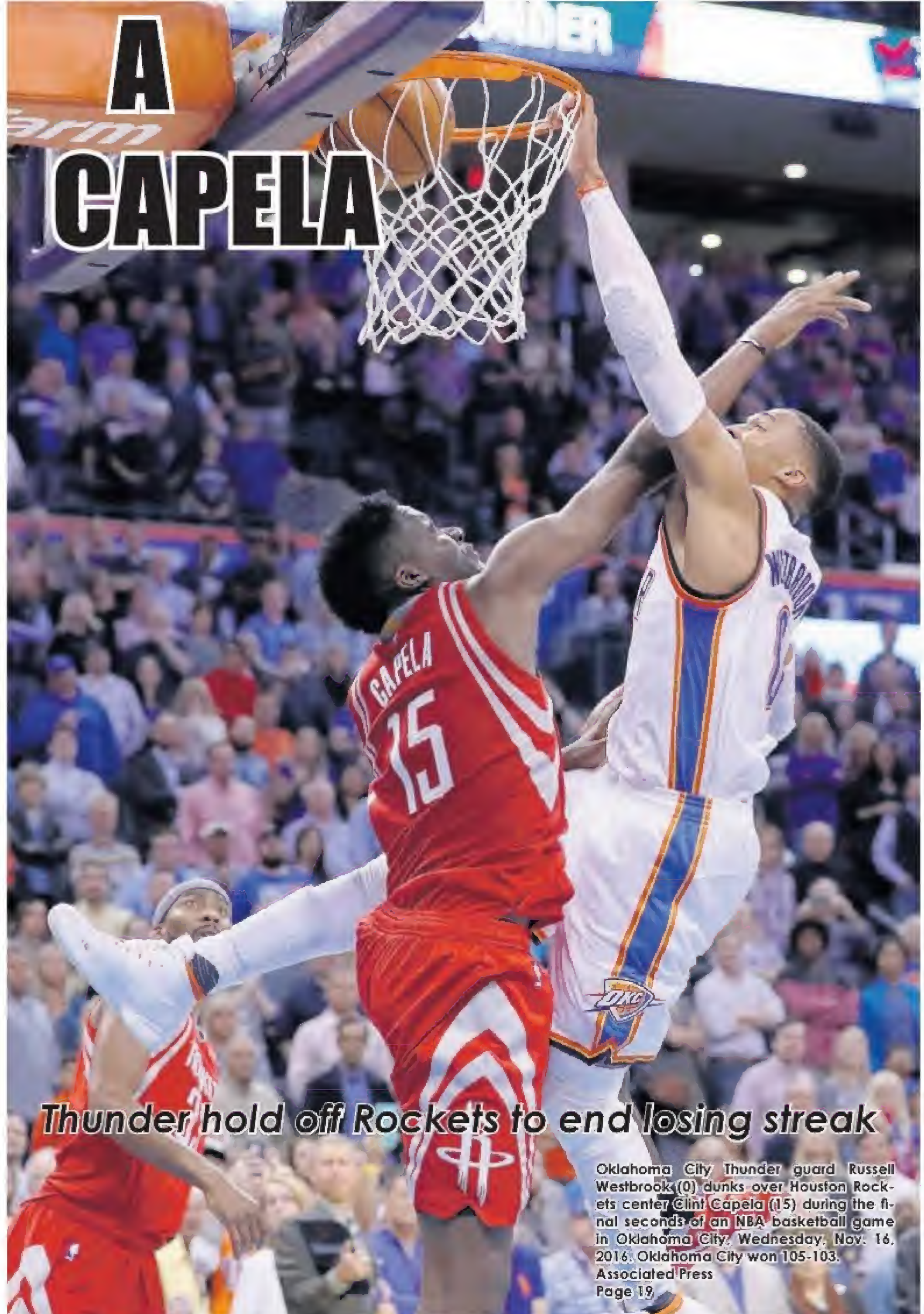
McCann waived his no-trade clause and was sent, along with \$11 million, to the Astros on Thursday for a pair of young minor league pitchers.

The Yankees acquired right-handers Albert Abreu and Jorge Guzman.

"It had to be the right fit," McCann said on a conference call. "It wasn't going to be just anywhere."

McCann's playing time diminished in the second half of the season as rookie Gary Sanchez emerged as a power hitter behind the plate. Sanchez hit 20 home runs in just 53 games.

Continued on page 22



Thunder hold off Rockets to end losing streak

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) dunks over Houston Rockets center Clint Capela (15) during the final seconds of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016. Oklahoma City won 105-103. Associated Press
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Novak Djokovic wins 3rd straight match at ATP finals

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Novak Djokovic is playing for a lot more than just a record-tying sixth title at the ATP finals.

The second-ranked Serb is also looking to reclaim the No. 1 ranking.

Djokovic won his third straight match at the season-ending tournament on Thursday, beating David Goffin 6-1, 6-2 at the O2 Arena to finish group play undefeated for the fourth time in the past five years.

But there are some more matches to play before the 12-time Grand Slam champion can be assured of finishing another season as the top-ranked player.

"Everything has been going ... in a positive direction. I've been playing better and better as I proceed in the tournament," Djokovic said.

Andy Murray took over the No. 1 ranking from Djokovic this month at the Paris Masters. But if Djokovic does better than Murray this weekend at the ATP finals, he will jump back ahead and finish the season on top for the third straight season and the fifth time in six years.

"That's something you wish for, to have everything in



Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a return to David Goffin of Belgium during their ATP World Tour Finals singles tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016.

Associated Press

your hands, not to depend on other players," Djokovic said. "In this particular case, I'm glad it's like that."

Murray, meanwhile, is looking to extend his stay at the top through the offseason for the first time. He plays his third group match on Friday against U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka. Djokovic had already qualified for the semifinals after winning his opening two matches at the O2. The second semifinal spot from the group went to Milos Raonic, who beat Dominic

Thiem 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Raonic, who reached the Wimbledon final this year but lost to Murray, ended up with 13 aces and 31 winners against Goffin.

"I stepped up when I had an opportunity in the tie-break. I stepped up at the beginning of the second set and the end of it," Raonic said. "There's a lot definitely to be proud of, playing under that kind of pressure."

Raonic also said he got some tips this week from John McEnroe, who worked

with the Canadian during the grass-court season.

"He shares a lot of wisdom with me, a lot of his opinions. I respect that," Raonic said. "It was a big plus to have him there."

Goffin was making his debut at the tournament on Thursday, filling in for the injured Gael Monfils.

The 11th-ranked Belgian didn't get much chance against Djokovic, earning only one break point — and that in the final game of the match. Djokovic, meanwhile, converted four

of his six break points, two in each set.

"It was not easy," said Goffin, an alternate who found out on Wednesday he would be facing Djokovic. "I didn't feel really well. I didn't feel the rhythm. My groundstrokes, my best weapons, were not there. It's not easy against Novak when it's like that."

Djokovic is a five-time champion at the eight-man finals. He has won 21 of his last 22 matches at the O2 since 2012, including four straight titles.

He also won the title in 2008, when the tournament was in Shanghai, so another victory on Sunday will put him even with Roger Federer as six-time champions.

Djokovic opened the match against Goffin with two double-faults, but he didn't do much wrong after that. He ended up winning 83 percent of the points on his first serve, even with four double-faults in the first set. Another match won, but more work ahead.

"I always try to really take the last drop of energy, whatever is left in my body, to perform as well as I can," Djokovic said, "and finish off the season in the best possible way." □

China's Shanshan Feng leads LPGA Tour season finale

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Shanshan Feng was right back on top of an LPGA Tour leaderboard Thursday, shooting a 6-under 66 to take a one-shot lead over So Yeon Ryu and Charley Hull after the first round of the CME Group Tour Championship. Coming off consecutive victories in Malaysia and Japan, Feng is one of nine players who entered

the season finale with a chance to win the Race to the CME Globe season title and \$1 million bonus. The Chinese star won in 2013 at Tiburon Golf Club.

"Somehow, the course is playing longer compared to three years ago," Feng said. "I don't know, maybe because I'm getting older I'm hitting shorter."

Ha Na Jang, Sei Young Kim,

In Gee Chun, Amy Yang, Lizette Salas, Beatriz Recari, Ryann O'Toole and Mo Martin all shot 68.

Top-ranked Lydia Ko had a 70. She needs a win this week to secure player of the year honors.

Ariya Jutanugarn and Brooke Henderson, who like Ko are guaranteed the points crown if they prevail this week, each shot 72.

Feng has finished no worse than a tie for fourth in her last seven events. She started the run with the Olympic bronze medal in Rio, tied for fourth at Evian in France, opened the Asia trip at home in China with a fourth-place tie, was second in Taiwan and tied for third in South Korea before winning in Malaysia and Japan. She took last week off, practicing only three days in Orlando.

"I think after the Asian wave, we're just so tired. I think I needed the rest," Feng said. "I feel actually pretty fresh coming into this week. ... I've been playing well, so just wanted to keep up with the good playing." Feng birdied four of the last six holes — the par-4 13th,

par-5 14th, par-3 16th and par-5 17th — in her bogey-free round. She made a 30-foot birdie putt on the par-5 first hole and also birdied the par-3 eighth. "What I learned through this year, having like swing change this year, sometimes I just think about swing too much," Ryu said. "So what I learned through that is I just rather more focus to like imagination. Just keep imagine how the ball is going to fly and what shot I am going to hit instead of where is my hand going to be, my wrist."

Hull birdied the final four holes on the front nine and also birdied the 14th. She also was off last week after being delayed getting out of Japan. □



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Westbrook scores 30 as Thunder top Rockets 105-103

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook scored 30 points, including a left-handed hammer dunk over Clint Capela in the closing seconds, to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Houston Rockets 105-103 on Wednesday night. Oklahoma City led by three when Westbrook dunked over the 6-foot-10 Capela with 5.5 seconds left to put the Thunder up five. Westbrook, the NBA No. 2 scorer, also had nine assists and seven rebounds. Victor Oladipo had season highs of 29 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder. They snapped a four-game losing streak. James Harden had 13 points, 13 assists and seven rebounds. He made just 4 of 16 shots while being harassed by Andre Roberson. Capela added 13 points and 14 rebounds for the Rockets.

WARRIORS 127, RAPTORS 121

TORONTO (AP) — Stephen Curry had 35 points, Kevin Durant added 30 and Golden State beat Toronto for its fifth straight victory. The Warriors also have won five in a row against the Raptors, three in Toronto. NBA scoring leader DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors with 34 points, and Kyle Lowry had 24. DeRozan was 17 of 17 from the free-throw line, and had his ninth 30-plus-point game in 11 games this season.

GRIZZLIES 111, CLIPPERS 107

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Marc Gasol hit a go-ahead 3-pointer from the left cor-

ner with 14 seconds left, and Memphis snapped Los Angeles' seven-game winning streak.

Mike Conley scored 30 points, Gasol added a season-high 26 and the Grizzlies equaled a season high with 15 3-pointers, including a career high-tying seven by Conley.

J.J. Redick scored a season-high 29 points, Blake Griffin added 25, and DeAndre Jordan had 14 rebounds for the Clippers, who still have the NBA's best record at 10-2. Both of their losses have come at home.

PACERS 103, CAVALIERS 93

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Paul George scored 21 points and the Indiana Pacers took advantage off the resting LeBron James' absence to beat Cleveland. Jeff Teague added 20 points and eight assists, and Thaddeus Young had 16 points to help the Pacers improve to 6-1 at home and 6-6 overall.

James sat out for the first time this season. Averaging 23.4 points and 8.9 rebounds, he rested after playing Tuesday night in a home victory over Toronto. Guard J.R. Smith also missed the game because of a sprained right ankle.

Kevin Love led Cleveland with 27 points and 16 rebounds, and Kyrie Irving had 24 points and seven assists. The Cavaliers dropped to 9-2 after matching the best start in franchise history with the victory over Toronto on Tuesday night.

KNICKS 105, PISTONS 102

NEW YORK (AP) — Kristaps Porzingis scored a career-high 35 points and New York held off Detroit.

The 7-foot-3 forward from Latvia hit three 3-pointers and converted a dazzling three-point play in the first half after dunking a lob pass on the break in the first 30-point game of his two-year career.

Carmelo Anthony added 22 points to help the Knicks win their second straight. Joakim Noah bounced back nicely with seven points and 15 rebounds after he was benched in the second half of the Knicks' victory over Dallas on Monday night. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope led Detroit with 21 points.

HAWKS 107, BUCKS 100

ATLANTA (AP) — Paul Millsap scored 21 points, Mike Muscala added 16 and Atlanta won its sixth straight game, beating Milwaukee. Muscala started in place of star center Dwight Howard, who was sidelined with a left quadriceps contusion. Atlanta improved to 6-1 at home and tied Cleveland for the best record in the Eastern Conference at 9-2. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 26 points and 15 rebounds for Milwaukee, and Jabari Parker scored 15 of his 23 points in the third quarter.

CELTICS 90, MAVERICKS 83

BOSTON (AP) — Isaiah Thomas scored 22 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter in Boston's victory over Dallas.

Thomas scored 20 of Boston's final 24 points to help the Celtics beat back a late Mavericks' surge. After Dallas took a 70-66 lead, Thomas scored Boston's next 13 points to put the Celtics back in front 79-76. Avery Bradley added 18 points and 13 rebounds. Harrison Barnes led the Mavericks with 28 points.

NUGGETS 120, SUNS 104

DENVER (AP) — Wilson Chandler scored a season-high 28 points and Denver won for the first time at home this season, beating Phoenix.

Kenneth Faried added a season-high 20 points and 15 rebounds to also help Denver snapped a four-game losing streak. Danilo Gallinari had 18 points, Ja-



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) goes up for a basket as Houston Rockets forward Ryan Anderson (3) looks on during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016. Oklahoma City won 105-103.

Associated Press

meer Nelson 17 and Emmanuel Mudiay 15.

The Nuggets played their second straight game without starting shooting guard Gary Harris. He's expected to be out until mid-December with a foot injury.

Brandon Knight scored a season-high 32 points for Phoenix, and Devin Booker had 24 before he was ejected with 17.8 left after receiving his second technical foul. The Suns have lost five of six.

MAGIC 89, PELICANS 82

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Serge Ibaka scored 16 points and Nikola Vucevic broke out of his shooting slump with 10 points and 14 rebounds in Orlando's victory over New Orleans. Evan Fournier also finished with 16 points. Terrence Jones led New Orleans with 26 points. He started at power forward in place of Anthony Davis, sidelined by a thigh injury.

76ERS 109, WIZARDS 102

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jahlil

Okafor scored 19 points on 8-for-11 shooting to lead struggling Philadelphia past Washington.

Ersan Ilyasova added 16 points to help the 76ers win for just the second time in 11 games this season. John Wall scored 23 of his 27 points in the second half for Washington.

SPURS 110, KINGS 105

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Pau Gasol had 24 points and nine rebounds to lead San Antonio to its fourth straight win.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 21 points and Kawhi Leonard added 20 for the Spurs, who improved to 6-0 on the road this season. Tony Parker had 14 points and seven rebounds.

DeMarcus Cousins had 26 points, 17 rebounds and six assists for the Kings, who dropped their third straight game. Matt Barnes had 15 points and Ben McLemore, Willie Cauley-Stein and Rudy Gay each added 11. □



IIHF encouraged by 2018 Olympic talks with NHL and NHLPA

LARRY LAGE
AP Hockey Writer

International Ice Hockey Federation President Rene Fasel said he had a "good discussion" Wednesday with NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and NHL Players Association Executive Director Don Fehr about the world's top hockey players participating in the 2018 Olympics in South Korea.

"No hitting, and no elbows," Fasel joked in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Bettman described the meeting as "constructive and candid."

"Still lots of issues," Bettman wrote in an email to the AP.

Fasel said his job is to raise funds for the players' transportation and insurance. The International Olympic Committee does not want to cover those costs as it has the previous five Olympics. Fasel hopes to persuade the IOC to financially support the NHL's participation.

"It is the only league that shuts down to participate in the Winter or Summer Olympics," Fasel said.

Bettman and NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly declined to comment on a Sportsnet report indicating the league has offered to



In this Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015 file photo, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, right, and NHL Player's Association Executive Director Donald Fehr take part in announcing the return of the World Cup of Hockey in 2016 in Toronto, during a news conference at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. Associated Press

sign off on allowing players to go for gold in South Korea in exchange for the union not opting out of the collective bargaining agreement in September 2019, which would in effect extend the deal for three years.

"There have been some suggestions that could be construed that that discussion would be worth having," Fehr told reporters in New York. "Obviously, we discuss that with players. We have begun that process, but we're a long way from done."

Bettman has said a decision would need to be made by early January at the latest, giving the league time to create its 2017-18 schedule with or without a two-plus week break for the Olympics.

Fasel isn't in a rush.

"We can wait longer because we want to do all we can to keep best-on-best hockey in the Olympics," Fasel said.

NHL and NHLPA officials re-

cently visited the Olympic site in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and have deemed it suitable for international competition.

Whether the world's best hockey players go to South Korea in about 15 months is up to the league and union, though Russian superstar Alexander Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals has said he will go even if there isn't an agreement. The IOC spent about \$14 million to cover travel and insurance costs for NHL

players for the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Fasel has said the bill would be about \$10 million for the next Olympics because it won't be necessary to charter planes to South Korea as it was to get players to Sochi.

The NHL hasn't sounded eager about going to South Korea, but does appear very interested in tapping into China's huge market in 2022.

"When the IOC awarded the Beijing Games, it certainly created a bigger opportunity than we thought existed potentially before," Daly said in September. "But it is also possible that you don't go to one Olympics and you do go to the other. I don't think anybody has ruled that out as a possibility."

Fasel has been trying to persuade national Olympic committees and hockey federations to donate funds to keep the game's best players on the biggest stage in sports. He acknowledged the IIHF could possibly use some of the \$40 million it gets from the IOC every four years and make cuts from its development programs for boys and girls. "It's not going to be easy to get this done, but that's my job," Fasel said. □

Deal set to dismiss domestic assault case against Manziel

BY SCHUYLER DIXON
AP SPORTS WRITER

DALLAS (AP) — Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Johnny Manziel has reached a deal with prosecutors for the conditional dismissal of a misdemeanor domestic assault charge involving his former girlfriend. Defense attorney Jim Darnell said there was still work to be done, but said after a Thursday morning hearing that he was encouraged. A judge set another hearing for Dec. 1, when the case could be settled.

"That's all in progress," Darnell said regarding the conditions of any agreement. "Until we get something done, if we do, then we'll announce it."

The troubled former Cleve-

land quarterback left the courtroom without responding to questions, talking on his phone as he walked ahead of reporters and cameramen and quickly getting in a car driven by Darnell.

"He's doing OK," Darnell said. "Tough kid."

The 23-year-old Manziel is accused of hitting and threatening former girlfriend Colleen Crowley during a night out in January. The charge against the former Texas A&M star carries a penalty of up to a year in jail and a \$4,000 fine. Brittany Dunn, a spokeswoman for Dallas County prosecutors, said she couldn't comment because the case was still pending.

Judge Roberto Canas met



Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Johnny Manziel leaves the Frank Crowley Courts Building, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, in Dallas.

Associated Press

in chambers for about 15 minutes with the defense and prosecutors. Manziel left the meeting after about five minutes and sat alone at the defense table,

mostly looking down. The hearing after the meeting was brief, with Canas setting the next court date.

"Everybody will be required to be here," Canas said.

"Then we will get this case down the road." Cleveland took Manziel 22nd overall in the 2014 draft, and the Browns cut him in March after two tumultuous seasons marked by inconsistent play and off-the-field headlines about his partying and drinking, including one stint in rehab. Even though he's an unsigned free agent, Manziel served a four-game suspension to start the 2016 season over a substance-abuse violation. Since the 2015 season ended, Manziel has been dumped by two agents after both demanded a second trip to rehab.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the domestic case remains under review by the league. □

Johnson gets some clarity regarding pit road, pace car

MARK LONG

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) —

Six-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson has some clarity regarding his pit road penalty last week in Phoenix.

He wants even more.

"There's been quite a few voicemails back and forth," Johnson said Thursday as NASCAR previewed its upcoming championship weekend.

"There's been enough texting and voicemails back and forth communicating, so I have a better understanding."

Johnson plans to delve deeper into the rule when drivers get to Homestead-Miami Speedway on Friday.

"I still look forward to (Friday) and understand what would lead to that again in the future and how aggressive they're going to be in calling that week after week, stop after stop," Johnson said.

NASCAR picked last week at Phoenix to enforce a rule against passing the pace car when a driver dips onto pit road for a stop. Johnson and Martin Truex Jr. were penalized for the infraction, and the punishment was holding the car for a lap on pit road.

"I just want consistency is all I'm after," Johnson said.

Fellow championship contender Kyle Busch said there have been times before races that officials told drivers that passing the pace car would be allowable, at tracks like Richmond and Martinsville. The defending NASCAR champion added that he saw a video this week showing how close he was to passing the pace car at Homestead last year, which could have been a costly penalty.

"Somebody was trying to point out that it looked really, really close of me coming down Homestead for the final stop last year



Jimmie Johnson answers a reporter's question during a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race conference Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, in Miami Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

where I was right even with the pace car," Busch said. "It was hard to tell whether I was in front or behind him, but it was close enough where I guess maybe I was given the benefit of the

doubt in that situation. But I never throttled up like Jimmie did even to keep those guys behind me. If you look at the film, I got everybody bottled up and they're all nose to tail beating the

bumpers off of each other coming to pit road. It wasn't like I gassed it up. "I guess it's just all in how it's perceived and how it looks, so don't make it look bad." □

Westwood upstages Race to Dubai contenders

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

The four golfers in contention for the Race to Dubai title were upstaged by Lee Westwood in the first round of the DP World Tour Championship on Thursday.

Westwood shot a 6-under 66 in swirling winds to take a one-stroke lead at the European Tour's season-ending event in Dubai.

"Some days you feel like there's a lot of birdies out there but today I think was a pretty stiff test," Westwood said.

Danny Willett and Alex Noren were best-placed of the players bidding to finish the season as Europe's No. 1 after shooting 71s on the Earth course of Jumeirah Golf Estates, while Henrik Stenson — the leader in the Race to Dubai standings — shot 72.

Rory McIlroy started the week as the big outsider to win the Race to Dubai and his chances are even



Lee Westwood of England tees off on the 14th hole during the 1st round of the DP World Tour Championship golf tournament at the Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016.

Associated Press

slimmer after shooting 75, ending a run of 28 straight rounds of par or lower at the World Tour Championship.

Should Stenson win, he will be Europe's No. 1 for the second time in four

years. He could even finish atop the standings with a top-eight finish, provided Willett doesn't win or finish second and Noren doesn't win.

The 43-year-old Westwood, who was the winner

of the inaugural edition of World Tour Championship in 2009, made just one bogey — on No. 12 — on a day when winds made scoring difficult. He had three birdies on the front nine and four on the back

nine.

"It was all good, really. I played lovely," said Westwood, playing without his regular caddie Billy Foster who is out with a knee injury. "Hit a lot of fairways, a lot of good iron shots, putt-niced nicely and, you know, didn't make too many mistakes out there."

France's Julien Quesne and Belgium's Nicolas Colsaerts were tied for second place after 67s, while No. 12 Spaniard Sergio Garcia was tied fourth after a 68, along with Italian Francesco Molinari and Dutchman Joost Luiten.

Stenson made just one birdie and one bogey, being denied a closing birdie on the 18th after his putt from six feet lipped out.

"It wasn't my best day. I played very average," Stenson said. "I'd say the good putts I hit didn't go in, and the bad ones certainly didn't." □

Robbie Keane leaving LA Galaxy after 3 MLS Cup titles

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

CARSON, Calif. (AP) —

Robbie Keane is leaving the LA Galaxy after winning three MLS Cup titles over six successful seasons. The Galaxy and the Irish striker announced their mutual parting Thursday, with the team lavishing praise on one of the most successful European transplants to MLS.

The 36-year-old Keane intends to continue playing, but hasn't chosen a new club.

"I believe that now is the right time for a new challenge as I look towards the next chapter of my playing career," Keane said in a statement. "I still feel as fit and sharp as ever, and I am looking forward to my next adventure. Having now retired from international football, I am ready to focus everything I have on one last major challenge in club football and will be taking time out to consider my options before announcing my next move."

Keane was one of MLS' best players with the Galaxy, winning the league MVP award in 2014 and propelling the club to championships in 2011, 2012 and 2014. He served as the Galaxy's captain for long stretches of his time in California, teaming up with Landon Donovan



In this Sept. 18, 2016, file photo, Los Angeles Galaxy forward Robbie Keane (7) and Sporting Kansas City defender Kevin Ellis (4) battle for control of the ball during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Kansas City, Kan.

and David Beckham to form the core of MLS' most internationally prominent team.

Keane joined the Galaxy in August 2011 after a lengthy European club career that included 80 goals for Tottenham Hotspur.

Unlike England midfielder Steven Gerrard, who also announced his departure from the Galaxy this week, Keane thrived stateside. He lived downtown in a luxury condominium with his family, and he demonstrated a Spartan work

ethic that rubbed off on his younger teammates.

"You can make the case that (Keane) has been the best player in this league for however many years he's been here," Donovan said last week. "From the minute he stepped through the door, we knew we had hit a home run. We didn't know what we were going to get, as far as his desire to win and compete, and when that part was evident, I think we knew it was a matter of time until we had champi-

onships."

But Keane missed roughly half of the Galaxy's just-completed season due to injuries while Giovanni Dos Santos and Gyasi Zardes supplanted him as the Galaxy's top offensive threats. Keane had 92 goals and 51 assists during his Galaxy stay.

"He's been fantastic," Donovan added. "I would have never imagined that someone of his pedigree, with his quality, and playing at the clubs he played at, would come here with

the intention to do things the right way like that. He could have come here and gone on vacation and taken it easy. He's not built that way, and he was fantastic from Day 1 until the end."

Keane is thought to be interested in playing elsewhere in MLS, but a return to Europe could offer more options. He also plans to begin a coaching career soon, and he could emerge as a contender for a role with LAFC, the MLS expansion club moving into downtown Los Angeles to become the Galaxy's rivals when they begin play in 2018.

Despite their talent-laden roster, the Galaxy finished sixth in the MLS table this season and lost to Colorado in the Western Conference semifinals.

The departures of Keane and Gerrard will enable a thorough makeover of the franchise, which has two designated player slots to fill with its usual aggressive player acquisition.

While Donovan still hasn't decided whether to extend his comeback for another season, the new Galaxy are likely to be built around Dos Santos and Zardes — two dynamic scorers still in their primes — rather than the over-30 superstars who dominated the club in previous seasons. □

Associated Press

Yankees

Continued from page 17

"It was like nothing I'd ever seen before. He was the best player in the game," McCann said.

The 32-year-old McCann hit .242 with 20 homers and 58 RBIs this year.

"We entered the offseason with the acquisition of a catcher as a primary focus," Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow said in a statement.

"Brian McCann is a great fit for the Astros as he is

not only a good defensive catcher, he is also a left-handed hitter with proven run-producing ability," he said. "His experience and his ability to impact his teammates will be a significant benefit to our team." Jason Castro made the most starts at catcher for the Astros last year, batting .210 with 11 homers and 32 RBIs.

Evan Gattis, known more for his slugging than his catching, also saw time at the spot.

Houston and the Yankees met in the AL wild-card

game in 2015. They both went 84-78 this year and missed the playoffs.

McCann made 86 starts at catcher last season, his fewest since he was a rookie with Atlanta in 2005. He figured next year in New York likely would mean catching once a week, plus some platoon time as a designated hitter.

"I wanted to catch every day," he said. "I feel like I still have a lot of good years left."

McCann also likes what he sees in the Astros, prais-

ing "a lot of great young pieces."

"I wanted to be a part of it," he said.

McCann hit 24 homers in 2006 and has hit at least 18 home runs in every season since then. He has 245 career homers with 888 RBIs while batting .266.

This was McCann's third season in New York after signing an \$85 million, five-year deal as a free agent. McCann is due \$17 million in each of the next two seasons, and the Yankees will pay \$5.5 million both years.

The Yankees had a \$15 million option for 2019 with no buyout. The option became McCann's if he had at least 1,000 plate appearances combined in 2017 and 2018, had at least 90 starts at catcher in 2018 and didn't end up that season on the disabled list.

The 21-year-old Abreu was a combined 3-8 with a 3.72 ERA for two teams in Class A. The 20-year-old Guzman was a combined 3-4 with a 4.05 ERA with two rookie-level teams. □

Gift Guide: Choosing a streaming device without overpaying

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Your streaming TV options have gotten better and cheaper.

Features that once required a \$100 device can now be had for as little as \$30. A cheap device is fine for getting TV shows and movies from most popular services onto a big-screen TV — as long as it's a regular, high-definition set. Of course, it's possible to simply watch video on a phone or tablet, but it's not as satisfying from a living-room couch.

Here's a holiday buying guide for the TV-streamers in your life.

STREAMING BUILT-IN

Smart TVs, game consoles and the TiVo digital video recorder all have streaming apps, and if all you watch is Netflix and Hulu, you'll be fine with those. But apps for individual channels such as The CW and FX won't work with every device.

The exceptions are TVs running Roku software or that have Google's Chromecast technology built in; they tend to have wider app selections.

GETTING AROUND

Devices vary in how easy it is to access apps and video. While many devices are getting voice features that let you search multiple services at once, you'll still need to navigate on-screen menus with a remote.

The exception is Chromecast, which has no menu or remote at all. Instead, you start video on an iPhone or Android phone and send it to the big screen with a tap of a cast button. With some video services, the phone is freed up for other things, though you'll need to use the phone as a remote for pausing and re-winding.

Devices running Google's Android TV come with Chromecast features and pack their menus with video from Google's YouTube service. Amazon's Fire TV device has traditionally favored Amazon video



This Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016 photo shows Xiaomi's Mi Box, left, the Roku Premiere, center, and the Amazon Fire TV streaming TV devices in New York.

over others, though that's changing as Netflix, HBO and other leading services get prominence on the home screen. Roku is the most service-agnostic of the bunch. Apple TV ships with Apple services, but it's easy to replace those with your favorites.

APP SELECTION

Roku has one of the most complete app libraries, though Apple's iTunes service is notably missing. You'll need an Apple TV to access iTunes.

Apple TV also has a good app selection, though out of 25 leading services The Associated Press checked, it's missing direct access to Amazon, Google Play, Vudu and PlayStation Vue. You can get the first three indirectly with a Chromecast-like feature called AirPlay if you have a companion iPhone or other Apple device.

Amazon's Fire TV device is missing iTunes, Google Play, Vudu, ABC, Freeform and the NFL (though some games are shown through Twitter's app).

The selection on Android TV is also limited, but you can supplement that with apps

for Chromecast. With an Android phone, you can get all but iTunes, though getting Amazon video is tough, as it requires getting Amazon's "Underground" app store first. With an iPhone, you're missing iTunes, Amazon and USA Network, even with AirPlay. If you just have a Chromecast device with an iPhone, you're also missing Freeform (formerly ABC Family) and CNN.

You'll still need individual subscriptions to these services. The streaming device merely enables playback on the big screen.

ENTRY-LEVEL DEVICES

Amazon's Fire TV Stick stands out as a speedy, capable device for \$40. It now comes with a voice remote for searches and Alexa assistant queries on weather, sports scores and other information.

The Roku Express is cheaper at \$30, though there's no voice remote, and the interface is slower (which doesn't matter as much once you sit back and watch the video). It's a great choice considering its wider app selection, notwithstanding the lack of

iTunes.

Google's entry-level Chromecast costs \$35 — affordable, though the gadget is clunky without its own remote. It's slightly better with Android than iPhones.

MID-RANGE DEVICES

Xiaomi's Mi Box is a speedy Android TV device with a nice price tag, \$69. It supports higher-resolution video known as 4K, an option that once required more expensive devices. But you need a 4K TV and services that offer 4K video — so far, Netflix and YouTube do so for just some of their offerings. Mi Box also supports HDR picture quality. HDR, or high dynamic range, promises brighter whites, darker blacks and a richer range of colors — but you need an HDR TV and HDR video. Google's new Chromecast Ultra also has 4K and HDR support for \$69. Because Mi Box also does Chromecast, you get more overall for the same price. Mi Box also has a voice remote.

The Roku Premiere also offers 4K for \$80, but its remote lacks voice support. Amazon's regular Fire TV has 4K and a voice remote for \$90. Neither has HDR. For now, HDR sets are rarer

than 4K, and even 4K sets aren't that common.

WHY PAY MORE?

The \$100 Roku Premiere Plus and the \$130 Roku Ultra offer both 4K and HDR. The remote for both also has a headphone jack for listening when everyone else is asleep. The Ultra also has a voice remote, something many cheaper devices offer. That remote also has gaming buttons and emits a sound when you lose it in a couch.

For hard-core gamers, consider the \$200 Nvidia Shield TV, an Android TV with both 4K and HDR support, plus faster processors for games with intensive graphics.

Another premium choice is Apple TV, which starts at \$149. You don't get 4K or HDR, which won't matter for regular sets. Instead, you get plenty of apps that do more than play video. You can browse Ikea's catalog, order food from Grubhub and get the AccuWeather forecasts. For video, an upcoming app simply called TV promises to bring together all your viewing from various channels and services. □

Associated Press

Ex-Valeant, Philidor execs arrested for fraud, conspiracy

LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP Medical Writer

Federal prosecutors have arrested former executives of Valeant Pharmaceuticals and a defunct mail-order pharmacy it helped to establish, charging them with running a high-stakes fraud-and-kickback scheme that bilked the company and its shareholders out of millions of dollars. Thursday's arrests are part of an ongoing investigation of the scheme, according to Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, who announced the arrests and charges at a Manhattan news confer-

ence. Other arrests are possible, he said.

Bharara's office said it has charged Gary Tanner, a former Valeant executive, and Andrew Davenport, who had been the chief executive of Philidor, the mail-order pharmacy, with two counts of wire fraud, along with money laundering and conspiracy. The criminal complaint alleges that Tanner and Davenport conspired to enrich themselves with Valeant funds after the two helped Valeant set up Philidor in early 2013, primarily as a vehicle to market and distribute Valeant drugs.

According to the com-

plaint, Tanner focused on building up Philidor's business, resisted his superiors' directives to line up other distributors for Valeant's products and ultimately received a \$10 million kickback from Davenport. Meanwhile, Tanner repeatedly told Valeant he was following its conflicts of interest rules. The complaint alleges that in the fall of 2014, the two orchestrated Valeant's agreement to buy an option to purchase Philidor, costing Valeant shareholders at least \$133 million. More than \$40 million of that went to shell companies controlled by Davenport, including one

called "End Game LP."

Davenport used that money to buy stocks, luxury goods and a \$50,000 custom wine cellar, according to the complaint.

Both men were taken into custody Thursday morning at or near their homes and faced court appearances later in the day. Tanner, 39, of Gilbert, Arizona, had been Valeant's primary contact with Philidor and headed Valeant's "access solutions team," which worked to get patients' insurers to cover brand-name Valeant medicines instead of much-cheaper generic ones. Davenport, 48, of Haverford, Pennsyl-

vania, a Philadelphia suburb, was Philidor's largest owner as well as its CEO.

Valeant has been under scrutiny for aggressively jacking up prices of old drugs with little or no competition and for questionable accounting practices, including prematurely reporting sales of its drugs made through Philidor.

Valeant is the target of more than 10 different government probes, plus multiple shareholder lawsuits. Its stock price has plunged more than 90 percent since the former Wall Street darling came under the microscope for its business and accounting practices.

Wal-Mart's profit falls but beats estimates; revenue misses

A. D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. saw its third-quarter profit fall more than 8 percent, dragged down as it continues to plow money into e-commerce and improving its stores. While online sales improved, overall revenue fell short of expectations as the company said it was hurt in part by falling food prices.

Profit at the world's largest retailer still beat Wall Street expectations, and it lifted the bottom end of its full-year profit forecast.

Investors focused on the sales, though, sending shares in the Bentonville, Arkansas-based retailer down nearly 4 percent.

Wal-Mart, like other traditional retailers, has been trying to improve its online operations and be more nimble to compete with



A worker pushes shopping carts in front of a Wal-Mart store in La Habra, Calif. Wal-Mart reported financial results Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

Amazon.com and others. It spent more than \$3 billion for Jet.com, a deal that closed in September and is aimed at helping it attract

younger and more affluent customers.

The company had also said it planned to slow its new store openings and pour

money into its online efforts, technology and store remodels.

"We are pleased that we can see real progress stem-

ming from our strategic choices," CEO Doug McMillon said in a statement. But he added, "We will continue to change and pick up speed to reach our longer-term aspirations."

Global e-commerce sales grew 20.6 percent in the quarter, up from 11.8 percent in the prior period. Wal-Mart said it's setting up teams to accelerate the integration between Wal-Mart and Jet.com and working to use its scale in areas like shipping and sharing its product selection.

The company is increasing the number of products for online orders by 50 percent for the holiday kickoff next week compared to the number available a year ago. It's also adding staff to handle customers picking up online orders at the stores, and designating a manager for that area.

JPMorgan Chase to pay \$264 million in Chinese bribery case

KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — JPMorgan Chase & Co. has agreed to pay \$264.4 million in fines to federal authorities to settle criminal and civil charges that it hired friends and relatives of Chinese officials in order to gain access to banking deals in that country.

JPMorgan's Asia affiliate allegedly created a quid pro quo program that would hire the children and friends of high-ranking Chi-

nese officials, regardless of the person's qualifications, in order to gain favor and win banking deals.

"Awarding prestigious employment opportunities to unqualified individuals in order to influence government officials is corruption, plain and simple," Assistant Attorney General Leslie Caldwell said in prepared remarks. The United States has one of the strictest bribery laws in the world, known as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, where it

effectively bans U.S. companies from paying foreign government officials to obtain or retain business. While JPMorgan did not pay Chinese officials directly, federal authorities said the hiring of unqualified persons related to Chinese officials was effectively the same thing. The only candidates who would fall under this program had to have a "directly attributable link to business opportunity" to be considered for hiring. The Department of Justice es-

timates the Asia affiliate of JPMorgan earned at least \$35 million in profits from Chinese state-owned companies.

Caldwell called the JPMorgan program, which was called the "Sons and Daughters Program," was "nothing more than bribery by another name."

Despite those strong words, the bank will avoid criminal bribery charges as part of the deal reached with the Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange

Commission and other regulators. The bank reached what's known as a non-prosecution agreement over the allegations.

The Justice Department said it agreed to the non-prosecution agreement due in part to JPMorgan's own cooperation in the case, where the bank undertook an internal investigation and fired six employees tied to the program and disciplined another 23 employees for their involvement.

Bank stocks surge again, leading broader market higher

MARLEY JAY

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks rose Thursday as banks resumed their steep upward climb and retailers moved higher. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen emphasized that the Fed plans to raise interest rates, which will help banks make more money from lending. Stocks started the day with small gains and moved higher following Yellen's testimony to Congress. Banks once again marched higher as investors cheered the latest indication that interest rates will rise from their current ultra-low levels.

Retailers also rose after strong earnings from Best Buy, while food and household goods makers struggled after weak results from Wal-Mart and J.M. Smucker.

Almost all of the S&P 500's gains since the presidential election have gone to financial stocks.

They lagged the market for much of this year, but they're now trading at their highest levels since May 2008, months before the financial crisis peaked.

Investors hope banks will benefit from higher interest rates, faster economic growth and lighter regulation under President-elect Trump.

"I wouldn't expect we're going to see the entire re-

peal of Dodd-Frank, but we could certainly see some changes that are positive for the financial services sector," said Kate Warne, an investment strategist for Edward Jones.

The Dow Jones industrial average added 35.68 points, or 0.2 percent, to 18,903.82. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 10.18 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,187.12. The Nasdaq composite added 39.39 points, or 0.7 percent, to 5,333.97. The Dow has set several records since the election, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq are close to records they set a few months ago. Fed Chair Yellen told Congress that the economy is improving and added that if the Fed keeps waiting now and raises rates too quickly later, that increases the risk of a recession. Investors already expected the Fed to raise interest rates when it meets in mid-December, and they felt Yellen's comments confirmed that higher rates are coming.

Bond prices slipped. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note rose to 2.29 percent from 2.22 percent. Bond yields rise when investors expect higher interest rates and inflation.

Bank of America gained 33 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$20.08 and PNC Financial Services climbed \$3.09, or 2.9 percent, to \$110.60.

Bank of America gained 33 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$20.08 and PNC Financial Services climbed \$3.09, or 2.9 percent, to \$110.60.

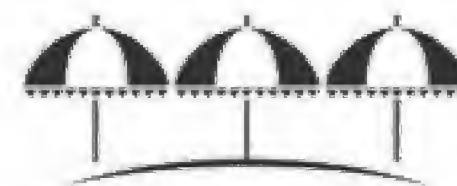


Traders James Dresch, left, and Gregory Rowe work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks rose Thursday as banks resumed their steep upward climb and retailers moved higher. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

US solar panel maker to slash 1,600 jobs, halt plant in Ohio

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — The biggest U.S. manufacturer of solar panels is cutting a quarter of its jobs worldwide and will halt production at its only North American plant. First Solar Inc. said Wednesday it faces challenging market conditions and must retool operations to begin making a more efficient, thin-film solar panel that can provide three times the wattage of its existing products. Company CEO Mark Widmar said in a conference call with investors and industry analysts that he expects the company's new line will

be operational by the second half of 2018. The Tempe, Arizona-based company said it is phasing out its current Series 4 solar panels and is scrapping plans for a Series 5. It will cut 1,600 jobs worldwide, about 27 percent of its work force. Details about the restructuring plan haven't been released. The company said it will stop production at its Perrysburg Township plant, near Toledo, which employs about 1,400 workers. The shutdown is expected to last more than a year, The Blade newspaper reported.



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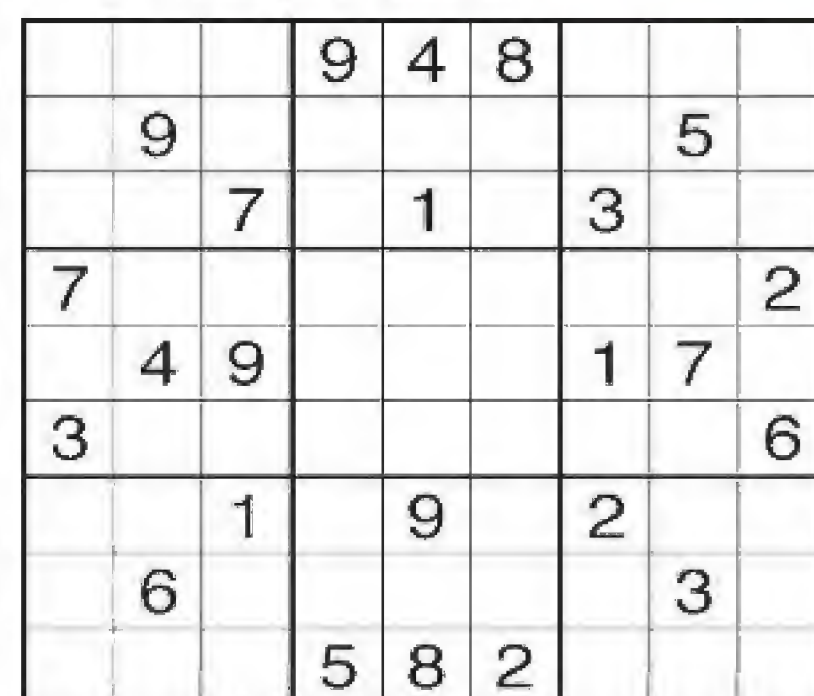
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Conceptis Sudoku



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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



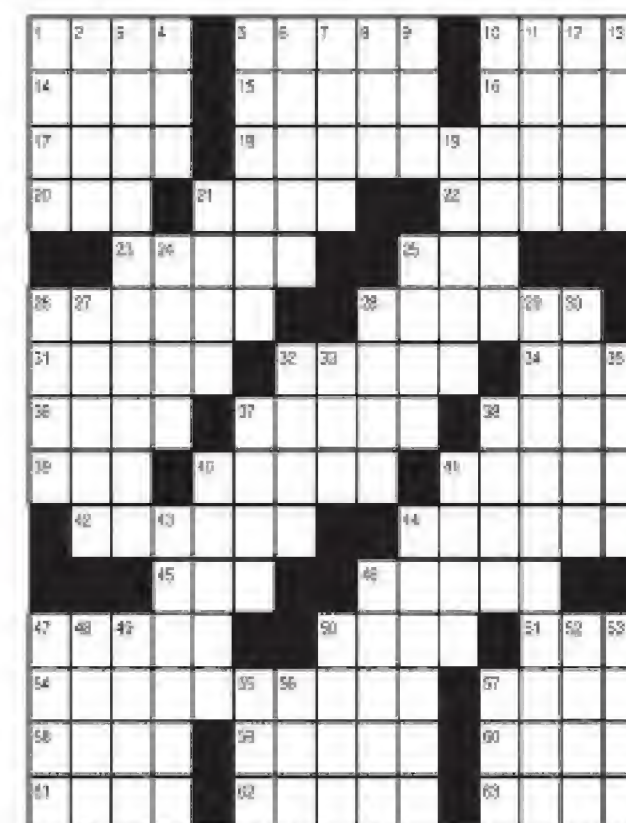
Zits



6	4	5	3	9	2	1	7	8
1	9	2	8	6	7	5	4	3
3	7	8	1	5	4	2	9	6
4	2	6	9	1	3	7	8	5
5	8	1	7	2	6	4	3	9
7	3	9	4	8	5	6	2	1
8	5	7	6	4	9	3	1	2
9	6	3	2	7	1	8	5	4
2	1	4	5	3	8	9	6	7

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- ACROSS
1 Uncertain
5 Holler
10 Arthur of tennis
14 Doesn't __ for;
dislikes
15 Ballroom dance
16 Gangster
17 Huge birds
18 Mesmerizing
20 __ Moines, IA
21 Give up land
22 Pig's remarks
23 Flatterer
25 -tacitoe
26 Sandal parts
28 Large crowds
31 " __ all, folks!"
32 Cinnamon or
nutmeg
34 Abdomen
36 Linkletter and
Garfunkel
37 Pocket bottle
38 Actor Duhamel
39 Buzzing insect
40 Times to lose
41 Caffe __ drink
at Starbucks
42 Actor __ James
Olmos
44 Provide shelter
for
45 Anger
46 Rising time, for
many
47 Wonderland
visitor
50 Forest trees
51 Fight result, for
short
54 Barnes &
Noble, for one
57 Broad smile
58 Pigeon coop
59 San __, CA
60 Heap
61 Celebrity
62 Seamstress
63 Play divisions
- DOWN
1 Frosted
2 Rowdown
3 Disappointed &
discouraged
4 Affirmative
5 Sanitized hoses




Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1738-7

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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- 
- 62 Seamstress
63 Play divisions
- DOWN**
- 1 Frosted
2 Renown
3 Disappointed & discouraged
4 Affirmative
5 Sainted horses
- 27 One and two
28 Feel the loss of
29 Selfish
30 Cold rice with
31 raw fish
32 Sew toy
33 TV's Sajak
35 Rather _____ instead of
37 Blaze
- 38 One of many
39 for a stand-up comedian
40 Shows courage
41 Dallas team,
42 for short
43 Rattan
44 Great fear
46 Long attack
- 47 Basics
48 Pillage; plunder
49 Greek letter
50 Piloted
52 Scottish skirt
53 Dollar bills
55 Bradley & Koch
56 Decline
57 Transcript avcs

Feds say barrier to gorilla exhibit ineffective

DAN SEWELL

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — A barrier separating Cincinnati Zoo visitors from a gorilla exhibit wasn't in compliance with standards when a 3-year-old boy slipped inside, resulting in the shooting death of an endangered gorilla named Harambe, federal inspectors concluded.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection report, obtained Thursday by The Associated Press, also stated the zoo's dangerous-animal response team properly followed procedures after visitors called 911 on May 28 to report a child in the gorilla enclosure. The death of the 17-year-old male western lowland gorilla led to mourning around the globe and a storm of criticism and unending social media attention.

The zoo quickly made the barrier taller and added nylon mesh and surveillance cameras. It said there had been no previous problems in the Gorilla World exhibit's 38-year history and its barriers were always found compliant in earlier federal inspections, including in April.

The federal investigation is continuing and could lead to fines or other disciplinary action.

The department's animal welfare arm confirmed the zoo's barrier system had been considered to be in compliance during earlier inspections.

Department spokeswoman Tanya Espinosa said the barriers must restrict public contact from the gorillas.

"It became apparent on May 28 that the barrier was no longer effective," Espinosa said via email. "The Cincinnati Zoo took swift and comprehensive corrective action in response." Zoo Director Thane Maynard said the zoo will continue to work with authorities to ensure its exhibits meet or exceed standards. "We remain committed to visitor and animal safety," Maynard said.

The Department of Agriculture inspectors said in a report dated June 6 there



Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Defers points to an image of the moat wall of the Gorilla World enclosure during a news conference in Cincinnati. Federal inspectors concluded that the Cincinnati Zoo's barrier to keep the public and gorillas separate wasn't "effective" for housing primates when a boy slipped into the gorilla exhibit and a gorilla named Harambe was fatally shot on May 28.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

had been "some slack" in wire cables in the barrier that could have been "manipulated to an eight-inch gap." Beyond the barrier were bushes and other landscaping that was 18 to 24 inches tall, followed by a 15-foot drop-off into a moat.

The report stated visitors had notified a keeper and called 911 to report a child was in the exhibit and the

keeper activated the zoo's emergency response.

A member of the Dangerous Animal Response Team arrived in about nine minutes, the report stated. It said Harambe didn't respond to attempts to return him to the gorilla holding area after making contact with the boy, dragging the boy by the leg in the shallow moat water and again on the ground. □

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Earth's warm October not record; 2016 likely record hot

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

While last month merely tied for the world's third warmest October in history, 2016 is still on track to be the hottest year on record, federal meteorologists said Thursday.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced that the globe averaged 58.4 degrees (14.7 Celsius), which is 1.3 degrees (0.7 Celsius) warmer than the 20th-century average but not as warm as Octobers in 2015 and 2014.

From May 2015 to August 2016, Earth set monthly heat records for 16 straight months.

Scientists blame continued man-made climate change from the burning of fossil fuels, goosed by a now-gone El Nino. El Nino is the occasional natural warming of parts of the Pacific that changes weather world-



In this Oct. 27, 2106 file photo, a woman relaxes next to Tempe Town Lake as temperatures are expected to break records again, in Tempe, Ariz.

Associated Press

wide.

The first 10 months of 2016 have been the hottest year to date, averaging 59.15 degrees (15.07 Celsius). That beats 2015

by .18 degrees (.1 Celsius).

NOAA climate scientist Jessica Blunden said it is likely that this year will eclipse 2015 as the hottest year on record. If November and October are just average for the 21st century, it will set a new record. But Blunden said a weak La Nina, the cooling flip side of El Nino, provides a small possibility that 2016 will slip slightly behind 2015. Still, 2016, 2015 and 2014 will go down as the three

hottest years on record "however they stack up," Blunden said. Records go back to 1880. Since 2000, the globe has set 42 monthly heat records and four annual heat records. No global monthly records for cold have been set since December 1916. New Mexico had its hottest October on record, while neighboring Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado had near record heat for the month. NOAA meteorologists

said the Arctic was unusually warm for a long period of time, both before and after the strong El Nino. Parts of Greenland, including the top of Greenland's ice sheet, were more than 13 degrees (more than 7 Celsius) warmer than average last month.

There has been "a meteoric rise in October temperatures on Alaska's north slope," said Rick Thoman, NOAA's climate science and services manager in Alaska. Barrow's The average October temperature in 2016 in Barrow, Alaska, was 30.2 degrees, nearly double the 20th century normal of 15.6 degrees. And the last 15 years have all averaged more than 20 degrees in October in Barrow.

"Since October 2001, there have been no cold Octobers (in Barrow), not one," Thoman said. "This change is the direct result of the really catastrophic loss of autumn sea ice on Alaska's north coast."

Arctic sea ice in October — the first full month when sea ice is supposed to grow in the region set a record low for the month, Blunden said. She called the Arctic the "canary in the coal mine" for global warming. □

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24/7

Time magazine picks 100 most influential photos of all time

NEW YORK (AP) — A single drop of milk. A newborn baby. The ravages of war and terrorism. The defiance of those who protest and the fear of those entrapped.

All are included in a multimedia project featuring Time magazine's most influential images of all time, released Thursday through a new book, videos and a website.

Many of the photos or frames from films are familiar, engrained in the collective conscious, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Falling Man," taken on 9/11 by Richard Drew of The Associated Press.

Others, and their stories, are little known, such as the tiny snap by California software engineer Philippe Kahn of his new baby, the first cell-phone picture, after he rigged a flip phone with a digital camera in 1997.

The magazine's editors consulted historians and photo editors and curators around the world, while Time staff interviewed the photographers, picture

subjects, friends and family to write essays on each image.

Matthew Brady's Abraham Lincoln, Dorothea Lange's migrant mother, the flag raising at Iwo Jima by the AP's Joe Rosenthal — also a Pulitzer Prize winner — and that famous kiss in Times Square on V-J Day, captured by Alfred Eisenstaedt, are among the 100 chosen.

So is Frame 313 of the amateur, 8-millimeter film shot by Abraham Zapruder of John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963. Life magazine withheld that frame at the time, notorious in its absence for showing the bullet on impact with Kennedy's head.

Some were chosen for their content, others for their innovation.

Harold Edgerton, for instance, while tinkering in his lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, laid the foundation for the modern electronic photo flash with his 1957 "Milk Drop Coronet."

He froze the drop as it landed on a table using

strobe lights with camera shutter motors to refine moments otherwise imperceptible to the human eye, according to the project's book companion, "100 Photographs: The Most Influential Images of All Time."

There is a NASA image of Earth from the far side of the moon, a fetus still in the sac, revealing what pre-birth development looks like. There's also the famous, fuzzy Loch Ness Monster, from 1934, Robert Mapplethorpe's 1979 "Brian Ridley and Lyle Heeter," in full sadomasochist regalia and the famous Oscars selfie initiated by Ellen DeGeneres in 2014. □



In this Feb. 23, 1945 file photo, U.S. Marines of the 28th Regiment, 5th Division, raise the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan. This iconic image is included in Time magazine's most influential images of all time, released Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, through a new book, videos and a website, Time.com/100photos.

Associated Press

The Shining' actress Shelley Duvall reveals mental illness

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress Shelley Duvall has revealed her struggles with mental illness in an interview with "Dr. Phil."

Duvall is best known for her turns in the horror movie classic, "The Shining," and for playing Olive Oyl opposite Robin Williams' "Popeye" in the 1980 film version of the comic strip.

In a preview of Duvall's interview with Phil McGraw, the 67-year-old Duvall claims Williams, who died in 2014, is alive and "shape shifting." She also tells McGraw that she is "very sick" and needs help. The interview is set to air Friday. The clip has drawn criticism from the daughter of Stanley Kubrick, who directed "The Shining." Vivian Kubrick calls Duvall's



In this May 23, 1977, file photo, actress Shelley Duvall is seen in Cannes, France. Duvall has revealed her struggles with mental illness in an interview set to air on the "Dr. Phil" show Friday, Nov. 18, 2016.

Associated Press

appearance on the show a form of "lurid and exploitive entertainment" and "appallingly cruel." Representatives for "Dr. Phil" didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. □



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In this Nov. 6, 2016 file photo, Bruno Mars performs during the MTV European Music Awards 2016, in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Mars' newest album, "24K Magic," comes out on Friday, Nov. 18.

Associated Press

Why Bruno Mars believes clothes make the album

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Bruno Mars was in the studio crafting his upbeat, funky new album, he had a dress code: Wear your finest clothes, and leave your sloppy sweatpants at the door.

He said dressing up set to the mood so that he and his collaborators could write and produce groovy, smooth and soulful songs that make up "24K Magic," his first album in four years. "I made it a point: I'm showing up to the studio, we working, but I'm not showing up in sweats 'cause you're going to get what sweats sounds like ... so I'm going to wear every jewelry piece I collected, and my finest shoes, and write some songs," Mars said. "It just helped keep the motion (going)."

His swag and style — a curly, mini Afro, silky Versace shirt, classic shorts, slick shoes and a studded pinky ring — match the sound of "24K Magic," an epic '90s R&B-inspired album that plays like a cohesive jam session. It will be released Friday. Mars, 31, said the album was inspired by his love for R&B acts like New Edition, Boyz II Men and Jodeci, as well as West Coast rap (DJ Quik came to the studio to give him a flexatone, the percussion instrument, to use on the album).

"The spirit of this album, growing up in the '90s, is to me the most joyous (time) for me. That's my childhood. That's what I grew up on," he said.

"I love DJ Quik, Suga Free, Too Short, E-40, Dr. Dre of course, Snoop, and that's because these songs, they influenced hip-hop, these '70s funk songs, but it took place in the '90s and that's why you had this soulful music with a superstar rapping on it. For me, it was all about the live show and the kind of party I want to throw."

"That is the spirit we were hoping to capture on this album, and that rhythm

is not as popular on radio right now," he added.

Mars says the trendy sound that some of his peers have adopted — downbeat, alternative R&B — isn't him.

"See, when I grew up you had to know how to dance, that was the whole thing. Everybody danced, thugs are dancing, the girls ain't looking at you unless you're dancing," he said on a couch in the finely decorated and hip Atlantic Records office in New York City. "I remember having so much fun growing up going to functions and dancing, having a good time. People see me and my band do what we do and I'm just trying to push that even now more so on this album than the last two. It's like, 'We got to be moving' — that's it."

Then he adds: "And I'm being mean about the R&B stuff. There's room, it's just not what I can bring to the table. ... It's not what I want to do."

"24K Magic" is Mars, yet again, crafting his own space in the pop music landscape: After debuting in 2010 as a co-writer, co-producer and guest singer on hits like "Nothin' On You" and "Billionaire," he went on to become a solo star with his debut, "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," as well as its follow-up, 2012's "Unorthodox Jukebox." He won Grammys for both multi-platinum albums.

They helped him headline the 2014 Super Bowl — an accomplishment no other artist achieved so early in their career — and the success of last year's "Uptown Funk" brought him to the big game for a second time last February.

"What's really helped us — and I don't think a lot of producers have the luxury of, have the privilege of — is being able to be in the studio recording an album and then going out and performing it," said Philip Lawrence, who performs in Mars' band and has also co-written and co-produced with the pop star

since he became a household name.

"We got two different vantage points: We got the sitting in the studio laboring over songs for hours and days and weeks, and then we get to take whatever that energy is and put it in front of people. And when you do that it gives you the opportunity to see what works, what doesn't work, what could be better, what could be improved on."

Mars' dance routines have gotten attention because they are slick, hip and, at times, hilarious. He started working with Phil Tayag of the hip-hop dance crew Jabbawockeez for "Uptown Funk" and continued to work with the dancer for his latest project and tour ("The 24K Magic World Tour" kicks off next March and Mars will open Sunday's American Music Awards in Los Angeles).

"We'd link up and just start moving and see who could make each other laugh first," Mars said of the choreography.

That was also the mood he had in the studio while writing his new album: "If we can make each other laugh, that should mean something."

The only guest on the album is Halle Barry, whose voice appears on the irresistibly smooth "Calling All My Lovelies." R&B icon Babyface lends a hand to the closing track, the slow groove "Too Good to Say Goodbye," and T-Pain co-wrote the catchy "Straight Up & Down," which uses parts of the 1993 hit "Baby I'm Yours" by R&B group Shai.

Mars said when he first played his label the new music, they were hesitant about the sound.

"It's not really 'When I see your face...,'" Mars said, singing the hook to his past hit, "Just the Way You Are."

"I remember the label was iffy when they heard it, and I was like, 'Trust me, there's a whole vision behind this,'" he said. "Thank God they trust me." □

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Anna Kendrick shares 'goofy and off-center' life in new book

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After a recent signing session to promote her new book, "Scrappy Little Nobody," Anna Kendrick joked about having a hand cramp. "It's going to be OK. It's going to release from its claw-like shape any second," she joked by phone. It's that kind of sharp wit and self-deprecating humor that Kendrick is known for, especially on social media and in interviews, which she swears she's not good at. Kendrick, 31, describes in her book how a number of female celebrities have launched a campaign called #AskHerMore to be asked smarter questions on red carpets, rather than just what they're wearing. Kendrick writes she wishes journalists would instead "ask her less" because she finds the situation to be so awkward. The Oscar-nominee for the

2009 film "Up in the Air," shares anecdotes and musings from her life thus far in the new book. She told The Associated Press what she learned from writing it and how Hollywood compares to Sylvia Plath's "The Bell Jar."

AP: You recently wrote on social media that you felt conflicted about launching a book tour right after the presidential election. How are you feeling a week later? Kendrick: I feel better about it and I felt immediately better even the day after the election. I felt better knowing I wasn't doing a traditional media tour. I'm interacting with groups of people who want to come out and hang out with me, but you know that it wasn't like a press junket where we're all just going through the motions and doing our jobs... It made me feel like it was maybe about connection and that's probably a re-

ally good thing.

AP: Did you learn anything about yourself while writing this book? Kendrick: I think the thing that surprised me was when I tried to write about money and growing up with two working parents who sometimes struggled ... it kind of spiraled. I was like, 'Oh, maybe this is something I should work on and maybe not do it in a book for other people.' I just realized, 'I have these issues around money and I should probably get over it.' There are bigger fish to fry in the world than me having money issues because of growing up with a very — in the grand scheme of things — a very privileged situation, but letting those insecurities eat at me in spite of the fact that I grew up white, middle class. I really just need to get over it and that was definitely really interesting. It wouldn't have been something that I assumed I



In this Oct. 24, 2016 file photo, Anna Kendrick arrives at the 23rd annual ELLE Women in Hollywood Awards in Los Angeles.
Associated Press

would have to work on.

AP: You really seem to have managed to stay grounded through fame. Why do you think that is? Kendrick: I'm me all the time. It's like a less depressing version of "The Bell Jar." You're still you, wherever you go. It would be really tricky to try

to normalize it and to feel like (fame) is all natural... In fact, trying to do that made me a little bonkers for a while. I'm very happy I'm allowed to be goofy and off-center. AP: And being an insider in Hollywood, do you find most people are pretty normal?



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Expanded reindeer cull arouses fear, suspicion in Siberia

HOWARD AMOS
TATIANA TITOVA

Associated Press

SALEKHARD, Russia (AP) —

The indigenous reindeer herders in Russia's northern Yamal Region, a remote section of Siberia where winter temperatures can sink below minus 50 degrees Celsius, are familiar with nature's caprice.

Last year, 70,000 reindeer starved to death when ice and deep snow sealed off the Arctic tundra where they graze. This summer, the region's first outbreak of anthrax in 75 years — an epidemic thought to be linked to climate change — sickened humans and animals alike.

Now, the nomadic herders who cover the same icy ground their ancestors roamed for centuries are facing a man-made threat as officials push ahead with an unprecedented culling that calls for at least one in seven of the Yamal's rein-



In this photo taken on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2016, reindeer pasture in the Yamal region, Russia.

Associated Press

said in an interview.

The rare tradition of nomadic reindeer herding the Nenets people practice sees them complete annual migrations of hundreds

Peninsula, a 435-mile-long promontory of wind-blasted land made up of permafrost and serpentine rivers jutting into the icy Kara Sea and home to about 280,000 of the Yamal Region's estimated 700,000 reindeer.

Shrinking the number of reindeer on the peninsula is necessary for their continued survival, according to Lyudmilla Morozova, a researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences. The population has grown by 50 percent over the last two decades, Morozova said, and large tracts of reindeer moss, a slow-growing staple of the species' herbivore diet, have been lost due to over-grazing.

"It is essential to urgently reduce reindeer numbers," she said. "The reindeer have eaten all the stores (of food) they shouldn't have eaten, and we are on the edge of a cliff."

Slaughter house workers, many of them former herders, are given kill quotas by the regional government that they levy on herd owners, who in turn receive a fixed price of 190 rubles (\$3) per kilogram of meat. During the cull, herders bring their reindeer to one of six regional slaughter houses, each of which can process up to 260 animals a day. The meat is then sold commercially.

Although the Nenets relied on their herds for food and clothing before the Rus-

sian Revolution, the yearly cull has become an integral part of their lives and livelihoods, providing one of their primary sources of income.

Andrey Rubashin, the deputy head of Yamal's agriculture, trade and provision department, said the bigger cull will mean more money for herders. Ten more slaughter houses partly financed by donations from oil and gas companies will be built by 2020, according to Rubashin.

ing due the growth of the oil and gas industry in resource-rich Yamal, not the reindeer population.

The industry's rapid expansion over the last 15 years has curtailed the access herders have to pasture and their freedom to move across the tundra. Reindeer migration routes are restricted by pipelines, railways, roads and large zones around drilling sites, where herders are prohibited from camping.

"It is an unequivocal tragedy for both people and animals," Yelena Sakirko, the Arctic coordinator for Greenpeace in Russia, said of the bigger cull. "It will end up with nomadic reindeer herders turning into settled reindeer farmers. This is a completely different form of husbandry, and means the loss of a culture."

Reindeer numbers are not unusually high at the moment, according to Moscow-based anthropologist Olga Murashko, who said they were at similar levels in pre-revolutionary Russia and during the 1980s and have remained static for nearly a decade.

In 2010, there were 290,000 animals on the peninsula — 10,000 more than today, according to the Russian State Statistics Service. Regional government



In this photo taken on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2016, reindeer pasture in the Yamal region, Russia.

Associated Press

deer to be slaughtered.

The cull that started this month is championed by local officials and scientists who say a record reindeer population is leading to over-grazing and more frequent epidemics. But environmental activists and some herders allege that energy interests pressed for the forced killings, which they say could destroy the endangered culture of the Nenets people.

"Every herder should decide the fate of their own reindeer," Eiko Serotetto, the owner of a 200-head herd who has called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to stop the expanded cull,

of miles as they drive their flocks from winter grazing lands below the Arctic Circle to the tundra near Yamal's northern coast.

Since during the Soviet era, the government has organized an annual cull in which up to 70,000 reindeer are usually killed off. This year, officials announced that 100,000 of the animals would be slaughtered by the end of December.

The final number could end up being higher since the slaughtering season also has been extended until the end of January, a month longer than usual.

One of the most heavily affected areas is the Yamal



In this photo taken on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016, reindeer herders drag a reindeer, they have caught, in the Yamal region, Russia.

Associated Press

"The aim is to push our reindeer herders toward a more intensive use of their reindeer," he said in an interview in the regional capital of Salekhard.

Opponents of the culling plan say traditional pasture lands are disappear-

spokeswoman Olesya Litovskikh denied the oil and gas industry lobbied for increased culling. Energy companies spend "billions of rubles" developing far-flung areas and supporting Nenets culture, Litovskikh said. □